ETAIYAPURAM

PAST AND PRESENT,

BEING

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ESTATE

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES.

COMPILED BY

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PREFACE.

In presenting this book to the public, I have to observe that I owe it to the enlightened nobleman, the history of whose Estate it attempts to trace from the earliest times. This history is in fact the outcome of the researches made by him from a feeling of respect for his illustrious ancestors.

My part in this book is that of a compiler, a part which I took up with pleasure as it is the History of an Estate to which I am much indebted, having been connected with it for many years as an Agent of the Court of Wards and after my retirement from the public service, as Manager.

During the disturbances of the memorable year 1800 in the Tinnevelly District caused by a stout band of disaffected Poligars who revolted and defied the Right Honourable East India Company to arms, the Etaiyapuram Zemindar's ancestors stood by the Paramount Power with devoted loyalty, and materially assisted them in restoring peace and order after a protracted and bloody campaign. I thought a true history of these incidents would be acceptable to the public.

In compiling this publication, no pains were spared for verifying the events narrated therein, as

far as it was possible to do. The authorities used for reference are as follows :—

Bishop Caldwell's History of Tinnevelly.
Kearn's Panjalamcourchy War.
Nelson's Manual of the Madura District.
Stuart's Manual of Tinnevelly.
Taylor's Historical Manuscripts.
Welsh's Military Reminiscences.
Shungunni Menon's History of Travancore.
Sawmy Dikshadar's Tamil History of Etaiyapuram.
Privy Council Decision in Moore's Indian Appeal Cases, page 332.
Tinnevelly Subordinate Judge's Decision in O. S. No. 23 of 1884.
The Prince of Wales' Tour in India, Greece, Egypt, Spain and Portugal, by W. H. Russell.
The History of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, by J. Talboys Wheeler, 1877.
A few stone inscriptions and copper deeds.

I have to express my warmest thanks to the Right Reverend Bishop Caldwell, LL. D., for the great interest his Lordship took in the progress of this work, and for the very valuable prefatory remarks with which he has been pleased to furnish it, and to Mr. E. H. Gregory of Palamcottah for his assistance in translating much of what was originally in Tamil.

PALAMCOTTAH,
April 1890.

W. E. GANAPATHY,

Late Manager,
Etaiyapuram Estate.

PREFATORY REMARKS

BY

BISHOP CALDWELL.

THIS lucid and most interesting history of the Etaiyapuram Zemindary, the most important Zemindary in the District of Tinnevelly, may be said to form an epoch in the literary history of the Presidency of Madras and even of Southern India, as it is not only the first connected history of an Indian Zemindary which has appeared, but is in itself a model which other Zemindaries would do well to follow. I have read carefully every word of it in manuscript and am able to speak of its merits with some degree of confidence. It makes use of every source of information available, whether printed or in manuscript, and omits no incident which illustrates the rise and progress of the Zemindary or of the family to which it belongs. Great commendation is due to it not only as a careful compilation but as an interesting history of an interesting period. It shows what can be done by an intelligent, liberal-minded, public-spirited Native noble for the development of the district committed to him by Divine Providence and the British Government, in all its multiform affairs, whether financial, educational, moral or social, and for its elevation in the scale of civilisation and progress. Instead of giving himself up to idleness and luxury and leaving the best interest of his peoples to their fate, as so

many of his compeers have done, the Zemindar of Etaiyapuram has set himself to imitate the public-spirited and beneficent action of the best class of European nobles, and not only made for himself a name and a position in the foremost class of Indian local administrators, but has given his Zemindary the highest position that any Indian District of this class has yet reached. The services rendered by the immediate ancestors of the present Zemindar to the British Government and to the country in helping to quell the Panjalamcourchy rebellion, the most serious rebellion that ever took place in Tinnevelly, are especially worthy of notice and will be found in detail in their proper places in the history.

I cannot but trust that the Madras Government will take the opportunity of evincing its sense of the Zemindar's services to the state by the example he has set and its desire that his example should be followed by others in some appropriate manner. For instance, might they not give this history a place amongst the historical memoirs and records published by themselves, together with conferring on this model Zemindar some title of honour valued by Natives.

R. CALDWELL, Bishop,
Author of the History of Tinnevelly.

18th July, 1889.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

The greater portion of the Etaiyapuram Estate, which is the largest zemindary in Tinnevelly, lies in the Otapidaram Taluk, a small portion being in that of Satur. It has a population of 154,000 occupying 349 villages. It contains 9000 acres of nanjah or wet, and 290,000 acres of dry or punjah, land, while 4000 acres come under the denomination of garden or *thottacal*, besides 58,000 acres of waste lands of all kinds. The gross cultivable acreage may be set down roughly as 564 square miles. The revenue demand or beriz is Rs. 330,000 from land, while miscellaneous collections amount to Rs. 16,000.

The wet land assessment ranges between Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 10, while the dry assessment fluctuates between As. 6,

and Rs. 2-4-0, per acre. The ryots generally are well-to-do and contented. The rain-fall of the Taluk is very variable. It has varied from 13 inches in 1857 to 50 inches in 1862. In 1871, it was 33 inches, while in 1888 it was 35 inches.

The crops raised are cotton and dry grains with some rice. By far the chief crop is cotton. The total annual value of cotton in the Tinnevelly District is (60) sixty lacs of rupees, of which more than one-half, or 30 lacs' worth, is grown in this zemindary. Palmyrah jaggery is also largely exported.

There are hill and forest tracts occupying some ten thousand acres, which are game preserves. The game preserved, consists of deer, antelope, hare and partridge. A species of oxen is also met with, which, once domesticated, have now run wild. Some baboons of kinds, wild boar and sambur, have been introduced, chiefly with the view of affording sport to gentlemen visitors.

The sea-board is about ten miles. There are salt pans at Arasadi. The South Indian Railway skirts the Estate. The nearest Railway station is Koilpatti, which is nine miles distant from Etaiyapuram, with a good metalled road. The great trunk cotton road from Tuticorin runs through the Estate for a distance of twenty-eight miles. Another road, from Tinnevelly to Rameiswarem, passes through the Zemin for 21 miles of its course.

The main roads within the Estate limits are :—

1. Trunk or cotton road No. XXIV. Koilpatti to Tuticorin, 28 miles.

2. Road No. XXIV. Etaiyapuram to Madura, 25 miles.

3. Road No. II. Tinnevelly to Rameiswarem, 21 miles.

4. Road No. *Nil.* Etaiyapuram to Sankaraninarkoil, 30 miles.

Rivers.—The Vepalapatti which, rising in the Mahalingam or Sadhuraghiri Hills, feeds the largest tank, that of Golavarpatti.

Several other streams, feeding tanks, are not of any great size.

The land is for the most part level, or consists of gently undulating plains of rich black cotton soil, interspersed with a few tracts of red loam.

The chief castes are,—Naidus or Naicks of the Kambalam, Kammavar, and Reddi sections of the Vaduga caste; all three are agricultural, and Telugu speaking, but differ in most other respects. The Poligar of Etaiyapuram belongs to the Kambala subdivision of the Vaduga caste. The Vadugas are, as the name indicates, North-country people, and hence foreigners. Of the foreign castes of cultivators who settled in this part of the country, the Kambalatars appear to have been the most numerous. The original tribe from which these sprang, appears to have occupied a tract of country, north of the Town of Vijianagar, some five centuries ago. Driven thence by Mahomedan oppression, they sought and obtained an asylum and pro-

tection in the Vijianagar Rayer's Dominions. Subsequently, individuals of the tribe came south, and settled in the western parts of the Madura kingdom. About the beginning of the 16th century, thousands, led by adventurous chieftains, arrived, and, opening up the wild and then almost uninhabited country, north, south, and west of Dindigul, settled there.

During the Nayakars' rule, the Kambalatars found employment under them and the Poligars, as soldiers, peons, and armed retainers. But, under British Rule, they, of necessity, merged into ordinary ryots. Their own vernacular is Telugu, but at the present day they chiefly speak Tamil. The religion and customs of the Kambalatars are curious and distinctive. They are very industrious and energetic and adepts in the art of reclaiming waste lands, and their advent has been of great advantage to the country. Their love of cockfighting and hunting, perhaps, accounts for their being rather more dissolute than other castes.

Though they outwardly profess to be of the Vaishnava faith, their religion may be described as a kind of fetichism or demonism. Each family has its household deity or fetish which is instituted by the consecration of some relics of departed relatives, more especially, of women who have performed *sati*; or of those who have led reputedly chaste and continent lives, or have died virgins, to whom their first prayers and devotions are made, as divine dispensers of health, happiness, and prosperity. They never consult a Brahmin for any purpose and are spiritually guided by Gurus of their own caste, styled Kodangi Nayakans, who have the reputation of being well versed in astrology and demonology. These Kodangis act as priests at all weddings, funerals and other ceremonials, and perform all the vocations of an ordinary Guru. The Kodangis are highly venerated, and enjoy exceptionally high privileges and immunities.

The marriage ceremonies of the Kamba-

latars are likewise unique. The marriage being arranged and pronounced auspicious by the Kodangi, two booths are erected outside the village limits and decked with the leaves and branches of the Averai or Pongu tree which is held sacred by the caste. A gunny bag is placed in each booth on which the bride and bridegroom are seated, while the Kodangi marshals and addresses the assembled relatives. The price of the bride, usually seven caloms of cambu,[1] and one calipanom, is then carried in great state, under a white canopy and with strains of a peculiar kind of music called Urumi, to the bride's house. The procession is met half way and the price received, when all proceed together to the bride's house where betel-nut is distributed and congratulations are exchanged. The Kodangi then heads the whole party to the bride's booth. The priest now receives from the bridegroom a small *bottu* strung on a yellow thread, and a tiny circlet of

[1] A kind of cereal.

gold. Entering the bride's booth, the sister of the bridegroom ties the *Bottu* round the bride's neck and attaches the circlet to her forehead, when the wedding is completed. A week's feasting follows and terminates the ceremonies.

The Kambala widows, in former days, habitually practised self-cremation and the memories of those who had observed the custom, were held in high respect and veneration. Small tombs, termed Thipanjankoils[1] in their honor, were erected on the high roads, and oblations to the manès of the deceased heroines were annually made before them. Sati was not, however, compulsory: hence, if a widow lived a chaste and religious life, she was equally honored. The ordeal by fire or boiling ghee is still in vogue among the Kambalatars. Both men and women are much given to the practice of magic and hold a high reputation, especially, for curing snake-bites by mystical incantations.

[1] *Thi*=fire, *panjan*=leaping, *koil*=temple.

Saka-Devi is the chief household goddess worshipped by the Kambalatars. She has no temple, and is represented by no form or image, but is worshipped in an enclosure fenced in by branches of the Elandai tree *(Zizyphus Jujuba)*.

As to dress, the men are fond of bright colors, which weakness they indulge by wearing the loudest colored handkerchiefs, &c. The women indulge their vanity by wearing strings of red and other glass beads and a profusion of brass and glass bangles. The women of the Poligars themselves, in dress and general habits, follow the practice of ordinary Hindu women of the higher class, but, as regards religious and ceremonial observances, they strictly abide by the primitive rules of their own caste.[1]

There is a British Post office at Etaiyapuram. Weekly fairs are held at Naduvirpatti on Saturdays, Méla Seithalai on

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[1] Nelson's Manual of Madura.

Mondays, Calugumalai on Tuesdays, and Nagalapuram on Thursdays.

The chief annual festivals are held at Calugumalai in January and March when large cattle fairs are held, at which some ten thousand head of cattle are sold. There are minor festivals at Etaiyapuram, Pasuvanthanai and Cumarettiapuram.

There are five chattrams on the Estate, at Etaiyapuram, Vedanattom, Calugumalai, Eppoduvenran, and Vepalapatti. There are six principal Siva temples within the same area with an income of Rs. 14,000 and endowments of the annual value of Rs. 15,000 and jewels worth Rs. 1,00,000.

There are four Police-stations within the limits of the zemindary, viz., Calugumalai, Naduvirpatti, Eppoduvenran and Vedanattom. The criminal law is administered by the Sub-Magistrates of Vilatikulam, Tuticorin, Otapidaram, Sankaraninar Koil, and Satur, whose decisions are subject to appeal to the Joint Magistrate and

the Deputy Magistrate of Strivilliputur. Civil cases are adjudicated by the District Munsiffs, of Strivilliputur and Tuticorin, subject to appeal to the District Court.

1. Number of villages in which there are congregations attached to the Church of England ...	218
2. Number of converts to Christianity, both men and women ...	10,124
3. Number of schools under Christian instruction ...	41
4. Number of boys and girls attending schools ...	1217
5. Number of catechists ...	32
6. Number of school agents including school masters and mistresses ...	57
7. Number of Native Pastors and Clergymen ...	11
8. Number of churches ...	157

All the members of the congregation are the Zemindar's tenants who are peaceful and contented; and the landlord observes no distinction in his treatment of

his tenants as between Christian and non-Christian. There are also, among the tenants, Roman Catholic Christians and Mahomedans, who receive equally impartial treatment from their landlord.

CHAPTER II.

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PANJALAMCOURCHY WAR.

The ancestors of the present Zemindar of Etaiyapuram originally dwelt at Chandraghiri exercising authority over some parts of the country adjacent. The materials to hand relating to that early period (803 to 1304 A.D.) are, in the very nature of things, scanty and necessarily vague and unreliable. Dismissing that period, therefore, with a bare record of their names and the length of their reigns as handed down by tradition, we shall come to what stands on a firmer basis.

1. Peria Appa Nayakar lived at Chan-

draghiri and, ruling 53 years, died in 856 A.D.

2. His son Cumara Nallama Nayakar succeeded and, ruling 46 years, died in 902 A.D.

3. His son Nalla Sillama Nayakar succeeded and ruled 50 years.

4. His son Nalla Ketchilappa Nayakar succeeded and ruled 48 years.

5. His son Nalla Sillama Nayakar succeeded and ruled 46 years.

6. Nallama, his son, succeeded and reigned 48 years.

7. Ketchilappa, his son, succeeded and reigned 45 years.

8. His son Chinna Appa Nayakar succeeded and reigned 52 years.

9. His son Ketchilappa Nayakar succeeded and reigned 64 years.

10. His son Cumara Muthu succeeded and reigned 46 years.

These ten reigns or rules cover a period of 501 years which, for the reasons given, are thus summarily disposed of.

The tenth in descent, Cumara Muthu Nayakar, had two sons named Nallama Nayakar and Vadalingama Nayakar, of whom the elder Nallama Nayakar succeeded to the Guddi and in the 38th year of his reign, proceeded, duly attended, on a visit of ceremony to Sambu Rajah who was then reigning at Vijianagar. The southern gate of the Vijianagar Fort was in charge of an athlete named Soman, and his eight brothers. This Soman had a chain of gold attached to his left leg, and it was a practice, that all visitors should choose one of two alternatives before gaining access to the Rajah. They were required, either to overcome Soman in a wrestling match, or to pass underneath the golden chain mentioned, in token of submission. Nallama Nayakar adopted the first of the alternatives and elected to fight Soman. In the combat that ensued, Nallama Nayakar was victorious, and, defeating all his opponents, slew Soman cutting off his head. The eight surviving

brothers thereupon submitted unconditionally, and prostrating themselves, craved his clemency and protection. Nallama Nayakar, fixing the head of the unfortunate Soman on a spear, and carrying his blood-stained garment on the point of a lance, proceeded with these ghastly trophies and stood before the king. The king complimenting him on his prowess, directed him to have a golden head made, and wear it as a badge on his left leg, and to use the blood-stained cloth as a banneret; and since he had spared the eight brothers of the defeated and dead Soman, and had so adopted them, he would take the name of "Ettappan" (*Ettu*=eight, *appan*=father) in addition to his patronymic. The King also granted him the privilege of two state fans, &c.; in addition to giving him some lands and villages. Nallama Nayakar was taken round in procession and granted leave to return to Chandraghiri. Since that time, the name Ettapan is used by all legitimate successors to the Etaiyapuram

Zemindary; and even at the present time, the original gold head trophy of Soman is at all installations brought out and tied to the left leg of the Zemindar, by the descendants of that Kamanan Dalawaye who originally performed the office at the court of Vijianagar; and the blood-stained banneret in like manner is borne by a lineal descendant of that first standard bearer. This Nallama Nayakar reigned 43 years.

The 12th successor was likewise a Nallama Ettapa Nayakar. He reigned 35 years.

The 13th Nalla Sillama Ettappa Nayakar then succeeded and reigned 41 years. He was the son of his immediate predecessor.

These three and ten preceding, making together 13 reigns, embrace a period of 620 years, and bring down the History of Etaiyapuram to the year 1423 A.D.

The 14th in descent was Cumara Muttu Ettappa Nayakar, son of Nalla Sillama Ettappa Nayakar. During his reign, the

insurrection headed by Mahomed Alla Udin against Anna Deva Rajah of Vijianagar, occurred. At that juncture, and induced by the disturbed state of the country, Cumara Muttu Ettappa Nayakar, left Chandraghiri and proceeded southward, eventually reaching Madura. In this migration, he was accompanied by his kinsmen Immudi Lingama Nayakar, Kulappa Nayakar, Cumarappa Nayakar, Senkote Nayakar, Seela Madhiya Nayakar, with sixty four bow-men, Mappillai Valleru Nayakar, Manjaya Nayakar with three hundred sepoys and a thousand retainers, together with Ulagudaiyaperumal Pillai, the Village Accountant, Sathurappan, Dalawai Kaman-an, Avasarom Ayamperúmal, and Pal Tha-vasi. Reaching the Cauvery, they found it, as the legend goes, in full flood. Invoking the aid of Saka-Devi, their household goddess, they successfully crossed the foaming river and arrived safely at Madura. There they waited upon Adi Vira Parakrama Pandian, the reigning prince. Informing

himself of their antecedents, the Pandian king made them grants of certain lands and villages, such as Anaiyur and Karukotanpatti in the disturbed Kalla territory, and a number of villages attached to Puttur, and constituted them guardians of the lands lying between the western gate of Madura and Karadikal village, and giving them many presents, dismissed them to Karukotanpatti, their future head-quarters.

That Ettappa Nayakar, an ancestor of the Zemindar, *was* at Karukotanpatti, is borne out by an ancient stone Inscription now existing in the bed of the channel feeding the Vala Samudram Tank.

Settling down at Karukotanpatti, Cumara Muttu Ettappa Nayakar quelled all disturbances, restrained the vicious, and devoted himself to peaceful pursuits. Finding himself without issue, he erected a temple at Puttur dedicating it to Kumarer (Subramaniaswami). Shortly after, being blessed with offspring, he named his son and heir Cumara Ettappa Nayakar. That

Temple still exists, and its granite pillars and stone carvings are ample evidence of its having been *then* built. After this, Cumara Muttu Ettappa Nayakar, having conquered and killed a Marava outlaw, named Muvarayan, razed his fort to the ground. In commemoration of this event, the Pandian king presented him with a gold bangle, and conferred on him the titulary name of Sundara Pandya Ettappa Nayakar. The Pandya Rajah subsequently sent him south, commissioning him to quell disturbances and check marauders in the Elasai country. In pursuance of those orders, he reached Satur and, erecting a fort in the neighbourhood, placed his kinsman Nallama Nayakar in charge. This fort was thence named Nallama Nayakar Kotai, the ruins of which may now be seen about a mile to the east of Satur, on the south bank of the river. So soon as he was established there, the neighbouring Vannia ruler of Elaiyerampannai, Aundukonda Vannianar, obliged

him with a supply of 300 cotais of cholam for the present use of his people. In grateful memory of the kindly and opportune assistance then rendered, the descendants of the Vannianar still receive an annual allowance of 48 cottahs of paddy and Rs. 250 in cash from the Zemindar. Residing indifferently at Nallama Nayakar Kotai, Karukotanpatti or Elambunom, Cumara Muttu Ettappa Nayakar closed his life after a rule of 25 years. Adding these 14 reigns, makes a period of 640 years, and brings down the history to the year 1443 A. D.

The 14th Zemindar Cumara Muttu Ettappa Nayakar had two sons, named Cumara Ettappa Nayakar, and Vadalingama Nayakar. The elder son, Cumara Ettappa Nayakar, subdued the refractory Maravars of Elambunom, and conferred the privilege of carrying the royal palanquin on two of them, Arjuna Thalaven and Muttirula Thalaven, and their descendants, for all time. A copper plate agreement then

executed still exists, and such service is still rendered. Cumara Ettappa Nayakar, accompanied by Chidambranatha Pillai, grandson of accountant Ulagudaiya Perumal Pillai, collecting the dues paid by the refractory Maravars of Elambunom, amounting to 50 bullock loads, returned to Gangaikondan. There the Pandian's Lieutenant, Jagavira Rama Pandian, much pleased with the success of the expedition, made him a grant of Elambunom, Pedharajapuram, now called Pedhapuram, Pandavarmangalom, Suraikapati, Eerál, Valamtopati, Ramanuthu and Naduvirpatti together yielding a revenue of 11,000 Pons, equal to Rs. 19,250. He further constituted him warden of Tiruchuli, and conferred on him the name of Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar. Chedambaranatha Pillai was made Curnam of the new villages. The village of Padanthapuly was also given to meet the Zemindar's Palanquin charges. He reigned at Elambunom 29 years. This reign inclusive, makes fifteen, equal to 669

years, and brings the history down to the year 1472 A.D.[1]

The 16th in descent was Jagavira Rama Sundra Pandia Ettapa Nayakar, son of Jagavira Rama Cumara Ettapa Nayakar. He reigned 24 years.

The last Zemindar left two sons, named Jagavirarama Ketchila Ettapa Nayakar, and Cumara Muthu Nayakar. The elder succeeding, reigned 20 years.

Thus, reigns 17, making 713 years, brings us down to the year 1516 A.D.

Jagavira Rama Venkateswara Ettappa Nayakar succeeded, and, with the consent and approval of Vyappa Nayakar of Ekarai village, reduced the three rebel Forts of Arungulam, Sithaiyanayakenpati and Mavaleiodai, and attached the surrounding lands. He ruled 22 years.

Jagavira Rama Venkateswara Ettappa Nayakar had 3 sons, Jagavira Rama Ketchila Ettappa Nayakar, Ramasawmy Nayakar, and Venkateswara Ettu Nayakar. The

[1] Shungunny Menon's History of Travancore, p. 94.

eldest son, Jagavira Ketchila Ettappa Nayakar, subdued Saya Malai, and, adding 15 surrounding villages thereto, established himself and ruled 27 years.

This, the 19th Zemindar, was constituted guardian of one of the 72 Bastions of Madura by Visvanatha Nayakar, the first Kartha, whose period was 60 years anterior to Tirumalai Nayakar's time. The list containing the Poligar's name was prepared in Tirumalai Nayakar's time.[1]

During this reign, a grant of some villages was made to Alagumuthu Serveikaren of Kattalankulam by means of a copper deed. This incident is referred to in a Privy Council Decision.[2]

"The first instrument produced was "a deed on copper, dated in 1557, and "purporting to contain a grant of the Dis-"trict in question to an ancestor of the "Respondent. It was produced by the "Respondent who was the proper person

1 Taylor's Historical MSS. Vol. II, pp. 21 and 161.

2 Moore's Indian Appeal Cases, Vol. VIII, p. 332.

"to have it in his custody and some objec-
"tions alleged to exist upon the face of it,
"as if it had borne to be executed by a
"person not then enjoying the sovereignty
"of the country, seem to have been re-
"moved by the diligence and exact investi-
"gation of Mr. Mackeson."

The 20th Zemindar, Jagavira Rama Cumara Ettappa Nayakar, built the present town of Etaiyapuram in the month of January 1567. He also erected a temple, dedicating it to Siva. About this time, Cumara Krishnappa Nayakar, the ruler of Madura, made overtures to the Zemindar, requesting his aid in a contemplated raid into the Travancore country. The Zemindar acquiesced in, and, accompanied by Chethambaranatha Pillai, the village curnom, and Pethanan Dalawaye with a strong force, entered Travancore and sacked the Fort of Eraneel. On his return via Ootumalai, he was treacherously shot at and killed by an arrow discharged by a concealed foe. The Madura Ruler, much

distressed on hearing the sad news, made the family a grant of Calugumalai as "*blood money*," and also added the word "Aiyan" as an adjunct to their existing name. This Zemindar reigned 19 years.

His son, Jagavira Rama Ketchila Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, succeeded and reigned 11 years.

Jagavira Rama Ketchila Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan had two sons, Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, and Jagavira Ettu Nayakar, of whom the elder succeeded.

During his reign, he went with the Madura Ruler Muthukrishnappa Nayakar, to collect certain dues owing to him in Travancore Territory.[1] The reigning Prince of Travancore, Vanji Marthanda, invited them to his court and rendered them substantial help in collecting their dues. This Zemindar ruled 20 years.

[1] Caldwell's History of Tinnevelly, page 61.

ABSTRACT.

22 reigns equal to 812 years (1615 A.D.).

Jagavira Rama Ketchila Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan succeeded as the 23rd Zemindar. While deer-stalking in the uplands of Rukmunji village, he got embroiled in some border dispute with the Golavarpatti people, when, with one left-handed blow of his good broad sword, he cut down a horse and its rider. He was thence called Edavangkai or left-handed Ketchilappa Nayakar. In a dispute with the Sethupathi at Nambipuram, he vanquished him, deprived him of his State umbrella and two state horses named Nattuvarayan and Penduganatchee, and chased him and his attendants as far as Perunali village. The eldest son of the Zemindar's second or younger wife, Rana Súraketchilappa Nayakar secured the favor of Muthuvirappa Nayakar,[1] one of the Karthas, and got a grant of certain villages attached to

[1] Dr. Caldwell's History of Tinnevelly, page 61.

Kurumalai, where he comfortably settled down. This Zemindar ruled 23 years.

The 24th Zemindar, Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, succeeded, reigned 21 years and died.

ABSTRACT.

24 reigns=856 years (1659 A.D.).

The 25th Zemindar Jagavira Rama Ketchila Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan reigned 32 years. It was in this reign that protection was formally given to the Roman Catholic Priests and congregation at Kamayanaickenpatti.[1] The following inscription cut on a stone preserved in the church at this place forms an interesting memorial of the period:—

"Year—year 865,[2] the 19th day of the "month Chitra. We Jagavira Ettappa "Nayakar Avergal (make proclamation as "follows): As in our father's days, twenty-"five years ago, this church of God in "our territory and the Matha of the

[1] Dr. Caldwell's History of Tinnevelly, pp. 236, 237.

[2] This refers to Quilen Eara.

"ascetics of the city of Rome were pre-
"served from harm, so also now we
"being resolved to do the same have
"visited this church and the priests
"and have given and set up this stone.
"Wherefore if any person should do any
"harm to this church of God or the priests,
"or their disciples, not only will he be-
"come a traitor to us, but let him also
"incur the guilt which would ensue from
"slaying a black cow and Brahmans on
"the banks of the Ganges. Thus we
"have ordained as long as sun and moon
"endure. Jagavira Ettapa Nayakar. May
"the Lord preserve (us)."

The 26th in descent, Jagavira Rama Ketchila Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, sent Kumarettu and Ketchilanan Serveikaren with a force to quell certain disturbances at Surangudi attached to Ramnad. Arriving there, and cutting their way into the Fort, Ketchilanan was slain at the entrance. Kumarettu sent his comrade's body back to Etaiyapuram, and, vigorously

renewing the attack, gained possession of the Fort.

Leaving a sufficient garrison there, he returned to Etaiyapuram. Ketchilanan, who was thus killed, leaving no son behind him, the Zemindar granted his nephew Alagumuthu Serveikaren certain villages attached to Kattalamkulam: and as life had been lost in the Zemindar's service, a separate and further grant of two villages, Kurivinattam and Theethanpatti as "blood bounty." These last were free of all tax.

This Zemindar, known also under the name of Kumara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, was unable to pay his Kists owing to continued drought, and resulting failure of crops. The Karthas pressing him for the recovery of arrears, he absconded and concealed himself at Thadachelli attached to Ramnad. Taking advantage of the occasion, Ketchilappa Nayakar, the Zemindar of Kollapatti, assisted by one Vannah Pillai and some others, invaded Etaiyapuram. Hearing of this raid at Thadachelli, the

Zemindar immediately started with Attavanai Abishegam Pillai, Manjaya Nayakar and a sufficient force to relieve Etaiyapuram. Arriving there, some of the Zemindar's adherents, belonging to Ramanuthu, who were inside the Fort, opened the eastern gate to give them admittance. As the Zemindar and his people entered by that gate, Ketchilappa Nayakar and his people retreated by the western gate. Vannah Pillai, falling into their hands, was humiliated and driven back to Kollapatti. Hearing of this disgrace, Kulandavélu Pillai, an agent of the Karthas and a friend of Vannah Pillay, felt aggrieved, misrepresented matters to his masters, the Karthas, and induced them to raise Etaiyapuram Tribute from 5000 to 10,000 Pons (Rs. 17,500), which enhanced tax the Zemindars continued to pay. The treachery and bad faith of Kulandavélu Pillai in the transaction subsequently transpiring, he was dismissed by the Karthas. After waiting upon the Zemindar for one year,

he was forgiven and employed. This Zemindar reigned 14 years.

ABSTRACT.

26 reigns = 902 years. (1705 A.D.).

The 27th Ruler, Jagavira Rama Venkateswara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, was a devout worshipper of both Siva and Vishnu, and was said to be well-versed in all that relates to magic and witchcraft. During his reign, Perea Muthu Pillai, and Alagumuthu Serveikaren of Kattalamkulam, with a force of 5000 armed men, were sent to help Ramnad against the Fort of Anumanthakudi which the Ramnad people were then besieging. Perea Muthu Pillay and Alugumuthu Serveikaren were both killed in that expedition, and the former's place was given to his son Kulandavélu Pillay.

In this reign, about the year 1710 A.D., the existing Vishnu Temple at Etaiyapuram was erected and consecrated, and certain festivals in honour of Vishnu were instituted. The two eulogistic Poems,

Samudra Vilasam and Kamarasa Manjari, were then written by Cadigai Muthu Pulavar in honor of the Zemindar, and, on being publicly recited, were approved of, and their author generously rewarded. About that time too, so the legend goes, a blind Brahmin Pilgrim from Benares, carrying a Kavadi of Ganges water, arrived at Rameiswaram, where he bathed the Ramalingaswami with Ganges' water and performed certain Pujahs. By the grace of the Swami, he received the sight of one eye. Praying and imploring the Swami to complete the cure by restoring the other eye as well, the Swami appeared to him in a dream and addressed him thus:—"My true worshipper Ettappan is at Etaiyapuram. He has been for years longing to bathe in Ganges' water. Proceed thither and bathe him with the remaining pot; when your other eye will receive sight." The Brahman, following the Swami's injunction, came to Etaiyapuram, and carried out his direction. At the close of the ceremony,

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the Zemindar, under a Divine afflatus, uttered the talismanic word, "Parpeer"! (Thou shalt see), when the blind eye saw! Hence the existence of the name Kan-kodutha Ettappa Nayakar, or the Ettappa Nayakar who gave sight! The incident is referred to in the Samudra Vilasam. This Zemindar reigned 20 years.

ABSTRACT.

Reigns 27=922 years (1725 A.D.).

During the reign of the succeeding Zemindar, Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, Vira Pandya Cataboma Nayakar, the great-grandfather of Vira Pandiya Cataboma Nayakar of Panjalamcourchy, who was punished by the Company, maliciously endeavoured to seize and kill Kuppa Nayakar of Athanur. The Zemindar directed Seenia Pillai to help Kuppa Nayakar against the machinations of Cataboma Nayakar. Seenia Pillai, setting about this business listlessly, and acting in a half-hearted manner, with the object of favoring

Cataboma Nayakar, gave that chief time to take the Fort of Athanur, when he put Kuppa Nayakar to a cruel death, by driving a stake through his breast. Seenia Pillai, making a feint of meaning business, advanced as far as Eppoduvenran, and dissembling, returned to Etaiyapuram, as if he were fleeing before a victorious and exultant enemy. The Zemindar, after due enquiry, was convinced of Seenia Pillai's duplicity, and dismissed him. Khan Sahib's disturbances taking place, the Zemindar with Muthia Pillay, Theivu Pillay, and Angaraya Pillay, sought safety in retiring to Perunali. Taking advantage of their absence, Vythilinga Mudali of Koilpatti, a protege of Khan Sahib, made a raid into Etaiyapuram, pulled down the Siva and Vishnu Temples, and destroyed a Puja Mantapom facing the eastern gateway. Khan Sahib installed Ettaiya of Puthalapuram, a relative of the Zemindar, as Ruler of Etaiyapuram. Subsequently, both he and Puli Tever of Nelkatan-Sevel, were

confined at Madura by Khan Sahib for arrears of rent. While there, Ettaiya, in attempting to commit rape, was slain by the incensed Rajput husband of the outraged woman. Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan died at Perunali in the 14th year of his reign.

ABSTRACT.

28 reigns=936 years. (1739 A.D.).

Jagavira Rama Venkateswara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, son and successor of the late Zemindar, who was at Perunali, started from that place with the people of Mavali-odai for Etaiyapuram. On his way, he was met at Ramanuthu by Mappillai Valleru Nayakar and Sivasankaran Pillai, and driven back to Sithaiyanayakenpatti. Receiving intelligence of the approach of Sivasankaran Pillay with Khan Sahib's army, he ordered 500 of his own men with Ramanatha Pillay of Kurumalai, Carutha Pillay, Ettu Pillay, Kamanan Servai of Arungulam, Jagavira Ettu Maniyakar of

Semaputhur, &c., to halt at Pethanayackanur, and come on the next day to Mavaliodai, and sent Muthia Pillay and Angaraya Pillay to Vallaiyanan Servei at Perunali, directing him to collect men and follow, while he himself proceeded to Mavaliodai. Theivu Pillay proved false, and, in contravention of those instructions, sent Ettu Pillay to Nally, under color of sending him to Pethanayackanur, and he, soon after following in his wake, joined him there. In the meanwhile, Khan Sahib with Valleru Nayakar and Sivasankaren Pillay and their adherents, surrounded and captured the Fort of Pethanayakanur, and, seizing Carutha Pillay, &c., 248 men in all, maimed them by chopping off their right hands, and to instil fear, tied Alagumuthu Servei, Ketchilanan Servei, Vencateswarettu Servei, Muthalagu Servei, Muthirulan and his brother, to the mouth of cannon and blew them from the guns. Kamanan Servei of Arungulam, and Ramanatha Pillay of Kurumalai, disguising themselves as horse-

keepers, and, creeping through a hole in the fortification, escaped and reached Mavaliodai. The Zemindar, learning from a letter written by Abishegam Pillai that Khan Shaib, and Sivasankaren Pillay, and their people had returned to Madura, at once set out for Etaiyapuram via Sithayanayackenpatti. As regards Valleru Nayakar and Sivasankaren Pillai, the former remained at Kollapatti, and the latter went to Séthúr.

Thaivu Pillai and Ettu Pillay, who had retired to Nally during the insurrection, returned to Etaiyapuram. The principal feudatory, Cattalamkulam Serveikaren, who for some reason felt aggrieved and had quarrelled with the Zemindar, went off to Vandanom, subject to Panjalamcourchy. Ramanatha Pillay and some men were sent to protect the Fort of Vancateswarapuram, during the war then raging between Panjalamcourchy and Kurumalai. The unfortunate Ramanatha Pillay, and Manikkavasagum Pillay, were treacherously stab-

bed by one of the Panjalamcourchy people. The former was killed, while the latter escaped with a bad wound. The Zemindar died suddenly of some disease inducing abnormal thirst. His death was as sudden as it was unexpected, and was attributed to sorcery and witchcraft. He reigned 30 years.

The 29th Zemindar was succeeded by his son Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan. Hearing of this, Sivasankaren Pillay of Vembathur, who had a prominent hand in the intrigue which ruined Alagumuthu Servei and his party, confident that he would be received with open arms, and provided with a high office by the Zemindar, came to Naduvirpatti. Ettu Pillay and Sankaralingum Pillai, calling to mind all they had suffered at his hands, determined on revenge. Placing a drawn sword in the hand of the hesitating Zemindar, they induced him to go with them, and, seizing the unfortunate Sivesankaran Pillay, dragged him out and slew him in an adjoining

nullah. In commemoration of the tragedy then enacted, the nullah is even now known as Sivasankaren Pillay's odai. This Zemindar reigned 12 years.

ABSTRACT.

Reigns 30=978 years. (1781 A.D.).

CHAPTER III.

PANJALAMCOURCHY WAR.

The 31st Zemindar was Muthu Jagavira Rama Cumara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan. This ruler was renowned for his wisdom and valour. He maintained a standing army of 6,000 men. He had four brothers. At this time, Panjalamcourchy, situated about 16 miles due south, existed as a fortified town and was ruled by Vira Pandia Catabomma Nayakar alias Caruthiah, a Poligar chief, then about 30 years of age. He had two brothers named Cumarasamy Nayakar and Subba Nayakar. The elder, aged 26,

was born both deaf and dumb. Subba Nayakar was 17. All three brothers were brave and intelligent. Oomayan, in particular, was distinguished above his peers, by his fortitude, intelligence, and bravery, but alas! all those talents were, by evil companionship and the baneful influence of one Siva Subramania Pillay, seldom or never exercised but to oppress and perpetrate any wickedness, reckless of consequences.

Sallying out with a number of armed desperadoes, he would plunder the surrounding villages, whether Aiyan or Zemin, doing a little cattle-lifting and sheep-stealing by the way; make bonfires of straw stacks, and not hesitate or stickle at a murder or two, when convenient or necessary. He, at length, went a step further, and, braving the Collector, ventured to collect revenue on his own account in Sircar villages. As a safe guard against like incursions, and glad, doubtless, to share in the golden harvest, the Poligars of Nagalapuram, Elairampannai, Golavarpatti, Kulattoor, and

Kadalgudi, cast in their lot with Cataboma Nayakar. Proud and exultant at so many Poligars having joined him, Cataboma Nayakar, over-confident of his power to resist, was deluded into believing he was in a position to fight all comers, the Company's troops included. He ignored Col. Maxwell's summons to meet him for determining the boundaries of some Zemin villages which were then in dispute.[1]

In the year 1793 A.D., Cataboma Nayakar attacked Major Stevenson who had come with a force to collect the arrears of Peishcush. Captain Dighton, who had been sent by Government to arrest the Manager of Setur, meeting with a reverse, and retreating, Major Stevenson was ordered not to proceed to extremities, but satisfy himself by merely warning the malcontents for the present, giving them, however, clearly to understand that they would be severely dealt with should they continue recalocitrant.

[1] Caldwell's History of Tinnevelly, page 163.

Construing this as evidence of inability to enforce their orders, Cataboma Nayakar concluded that the Government was weak and pusillanimous. Many of the Poligars arrived at the same opinion. Siva Subramania Pillay, Cataboma Nayakar's right-hand man, having committed a serious dacoity on the night of the 30th January 1798, at Alvar-Tirunagari,[1] Mr. W. C. Jackson, the Collector, directed Cataboma Nayakar to enquire into the matter and report, and at the same time required him to remit arrears of tax long over-due by him. Receiving no reply, the Collector again wrote to Cataboma Nayakar on the 28th April 1798,[2] telling him, that since he had not paid two instalments, and there seemed but little likelihood of his ever paying any, if left to himself, he had sent Vycoondam Pillay who would remain with him till such time as arrears were paid, and that, should he fail or object to pay up, he

[1] Kearn's Panjalamcourchy War, p. 6.

[2] Kearn's History page 7.

was to present himself before the Ramnad Cutchery.

On the 23rd May 1798,[1] the Collector again wrote to the Poligar, pointing out that he was 6,000 cali-chuckrams in arrears, and telling him that, if he did not appear before the Ramnad Cutchery within 15 days, he would possibly forfeit his Zemindary in the same manner as the Poligar of Séthúr had forfeited his Polliam for disobeying Mr. Powney. On the 8th June 1798, the Collector wrote a third time, giving a resumé of all that had transpired, and told the Zemindar that, since he would come to no terms, and listen to no advice, and continued obstinate and insubordinate, he would be under the necessity of reporting him for the orders of Government, and that he alone would be responsible for the serious consequences that would ensue.

Accordingly, on the 9th June 1798, Mr. Jackson, the Collector of the District, reported the Poligar to the Board of Revenue,

[1] Kearn's History, page 7.

and, giving a summary of all that had happened, requested that measures might be taken either to attach the Polliam, or, deposing Cataboma Nayakar, give the Estate to one of his relatives. On the 25th July 1798, the Collector wrote to the Board, soliciting an early reply to his previous letter, and reporting the continued insubordination of Cataboma Nayakar. Another letter was written on the 28th July 1798, urging, that, unless stringent measures were at once adopted for bringing Cataboma Nayakar to his senses, the prestige of the Company would suffer, and at the same time, it was hinted, that if some troops from Palamcottah under Captain Smart were at once sent down, the Poligars would be overawed, and things would settle down to their normal state. Still thinking that matters would be arranged amicably, and the Poligars would tender their submission, without resorting to extreme measures—hoping against hope—the President delayed placing the Papers for disposal before

the Board of Revenue. Under the orders of Government, the Board at length issued instructions to the Collector on the 9th August 1798, to the effect that, if the Poligar of Panjalamcourchy did not, after due notice, present himself before the Collector at Ramnad within 16 days of receipt of such notice, he was to apply to the Officer Commanding Palamcottah for sufficient troops to arrest the Poligar, and keep him in safe custody. To carry out the orders of the Board, the Collector, leaving Ramnad, came and encamped in some villages near Panjalamcourchy, in hopes of giving Cataboma Nayakar an opportunity of meeting him. Hearing that the Nayakar was approaching with a number of armed retainers, the Collector, issuing orders for the Poligar to appear before the Court at Ramnad within 16 days, left for Courtallam. The Poligar proceeded thither unattended. There too, however, he was disappointed; for, instead of being granted an interview, he was directed by a written order to come

on to Ramnad, the 5th September being fixed as the date on which he was to appear. This order concluded by saying, that he was leaving the place the next day, and that, should the Poligar fail to put in an appearance at Ramnad on the date fixed, he would forfeit his Estate. In directing him to come on to Ramnad, it was evidently the intention of the Collector to isolate Cataboma Nayakar, and thus the more readily place him under restraint, pending orders, should he still prove contumacious. Cataboma Nayakar, on his side, had fully determined not to pay the tax, but temporize till he had gathered sufficient strength, and then set the authorities at defiance and openly resist to the bitter end, but, in case he was subjected to any indignity, to hazard all and fight his way out at any cost.

Adequately attended by armed followers, Cataboma Nayakar accompanied the Collector and reached Ramnad. On the 20th September 1798, the Collector directed

Cataboma Nayakar, Oomai Kumaraswamy Nayakar, and Siva Subramania Pillay, the minister, to be present at the Cutcherry. There Cataboma Nayakar, being asked why he had not obeyed previous summonses served on him, stated that his mother's indisposition prevented his coming any earlier! Apparently admitting the absurd plea, and giving him to understand that the Government was highly displeased with his conduct, the Collector directed him to remain at Ramnad, pending receipt of orders from Madras. The Poligar seemingly assented to the arrangement. On the Collector asking him if he had seen all the letters that had been sent him, he replied evasively that, quite possibly, he had seen most of them. A Munshi was now directed to produce and read the correspondence. Cataboma Nayakar remained quietly listening while two letters were being read; but, when the letter of the 23rd May, threatening forfeiture of his Estate, was read out, his countenance

evinced signs of emotion and anger. The Collector, turning to Colonel Martin, and ascertaining that the Fort was free from small-pox, made arrangements for getting Mr. Balfour's Bungalow, within the Fort, ready for the reception of the Poligar Chief. His minister, Siva Subramania Pillay, who had some knowledge of English, and was closely observing them, overheard the conversation and misunderstood them to say that the Poligar was to be confined there as a prisoner. He at once made signs to the Poligar to escape. Asking to be excused for a minute, the Poligar walked rapidly towards the eastern gate, about 150 yards distant. Lieutenant Clarke, running forward, closed the gate. Coming up, Cataboma Nayakar cut him down, and opening the gate, made good his escape and joined a body of 4,000 armed men outside, who were in hiding and ready to receive him. Looting the Pettah at Ramnad and some villages on his way, he came on to Panjalamcourchy. Siva Subramania Pillay,

his minister, was arrested and sent to Trichinopoly.

Finding it impossible to arrest Cataboma Nayakar otherwise, the Collector applied to the Board of Revenue on the 21st September 1798, for one Regiment, 2 guns, and half a Regiment of Cavalry, and at the same time recommended the grant of a pension to Lieutenant Clarke's Family. Mr. Jackson also wrote, as under, to the Poligar of Etaiyapuram on the 27th September 1798.

"You must ere this have heard of the misdoings of the Panjalamcourchy Poligar. By order of Government, we had directed him to appear at our Cutcherry. It is true he came; but, without any cause whatever, he suddenly left without orders. He, likewise, stabbed and killed Lieutenant Clarke for remonstrating and endeavouring to prevent his escape. In connection with that sad business, your presence here is necessary. You all must be well assured that, in obeying that order and coming here, you will incur no risk whatever.

The Panjalamcourchy Poligar himself must be assured of that; since I have personally told him that I was not prejudiced against him; but his own conscience bearing witness to his having, by his daring misdeeds and obduracy, forfeited all claims to consideration, he has, in desperation, persistently continued in a course of lawlessness. Had he, even after coming to Ramnad, behaved in a proper and consistent manner, there is no doubt but that he would have obtained the favor of the Company, and have been, at the present moment, in peaceful possession of his Estate.

I have written you this, as I thought it as well to warn you against having any communication or dealing either by letter or messenger with the Panjalamcourchy Poligar. You must fully be alive to the grave consequences that would follow any premature discovery of present negotiations. Should the poligar or his emissaries enter your Zemin limits, it will be your

bounden duty to have them, at once, arrested and confined. You must strictly abide by these orders."

The following Proclamation, dated 3rd October 1798, was issued by the Madras Government and communicated to the Poligar Chief.*

"Whereas Cataboma Naig, the Polygar "of Panjalamcourchy, having been required "to attend at the Collector's Cutchery at "Ramnad, and in disobedience of the "Company's orders, and in defiance of "their authority, not only withdrawn "himself abruptly and violently from "Ramnad, but is also charged with having "put to death an European Officer then "on duty; this is to require, the said Cata-"boma Naig, to surrender himself to the "Company's authority, either to the Col-"lector at Ramnad, or Major-General "Floyd, the Commanding Officer at Trichi-"nopoly. If Cataboma Naig should avail "himself of the latitude now offered him,

* Kearn's History, page 13.

"he may depend upon a full, fair, and im-"partial investigation, of his conduct. But "if blind to the inevitable consequences, "of provoking the ultimate resentment "of the Company, he should withdraw his "allegiance from their Government, and "prepare to maintain himself by force, the "said Cataboma Naig is, hereby, seriously "warned of their determination, to enforce "the authority of their Government, and "to make him a lasting example of their "just displeasure."

On receipt of the Proclamation, Cataboma Nayakar, under semblance of sending an immediate acknowledgment, availed himself of the occasion to write an Olai reply vindicating himself and charging the Collector with false and imaginary shortcomings. A translation of that Olai is here given:—

*"The paper from the Honourable Com-"pany, I have received, and understand "the contents, according to the orders from

* Kearn's History, page 14.

"the Company, I shall obey. I have sent an "answer to the paper I received from the "Company. Having received orders from "you, when you were proceeding to Teroo-"cootalam, to attend you, though I was "then unwell, yet, in obedience to the "orders, I proceeded and arrived where you "were; visited Dubash Pillah and having "sent my Vakeel to express my wish to "visit you, I was acquainted, that I should "see you at Ramnad. I thereupon, ob-"served to the Dubash Pillah, that, I had "proceeded thither, in obedience to the "order sent me, without regarding my "indisposition, and that, if permission be "given me, I would return to Panjalam-"courchy, get myself cured a little, and be "at Ramnad by the time you would arrive. "He sent to acquaint me, in answer that, "I would come as far as Chocumputty, "when he would get me to visit you. On "my arrival at Chocumputty, having "expressed my wish to visit you, he said "that, he could not conveniently do it, for

" want of time, and that, I should come to " Shatoor, where you would probably re- " main for four days, and that, he would " find an opportunity for me to visit you. " I accordingly followed to Shatoor, where, " having also expressed my wish to see " you, he, the Dubash Pillah, said he " would have me visit you at Shevelepatore " and desired I would follow to that place. " On my arrival there, having expressed " my wish to visit you, the Dubash Pillah " told me that, as you were somewhat dis- " pleased with me, he would try to remove " the displeasure against me, so as that, " you may be glad when you see me, and " that, if possible, he would procure for me, " on the road, the desired meeting, if not that, " I should come along to Ramnad, where " he would get me to visit you, and procure " me permission, to return to my Pollam " in a contented manner. I thereupon " followed you, all the way to Ramnad, by " the Pollams of Perayore and Pawally " and by Palamarah and Comery Talooks.

"On the road I was often made acquainted "that, it was desired to get me into the "fort, to do me some injury, and that, I "should therefore avoid the danger that "awaited me, but as I depended on the "Company, and on you, and as I was a "child of yours, I, with confidence, arrived "at Ramnad without any fear. The next "day, I was acquainted by Ragaviah, the "Head Hircarrah, that it was the Col- "lector's order I should visit him in the "Fort and required me to do so. I im- "mediately proceeded to the Fort, agree- "ably to the order sent me, but instead of "meeting the Collector at Ramalinga vela- "sam, where I used to visit, attended by "my Uncle, Brothers and Brother-in-law, "I was taken to the Metaywoodoo,* the "House in the Palace, and my Uncle, "Brothers, Brother-in-law, and others, not "only prevented from following me, but "severely beaten and turned out and laid "hold of me by the waist and troubled me.

* "Upstairs house."

"I endeavoured to persuade them that, I "had come down by your orders, but with- "out hearing me they proved troublesome. "At this time the Adjutant and guard came "to secure me, at which I was greatly "alarmed, and in attempting to run away, "the Fort gate was shut, and the com- "panies, under preparation, fired. Con- "sidering my life in danger, I forced the "gate-way, and effected my escape. I was "afterwards informed that, my people who "followed me, were pursued by the Adju- "tant, and the Company, fired at, and cut "with swords, that one of my Peons had "then killed the Adjutant, that he had also "been killed near the Fort gate, that two "among my Uncles and Brothers-in-law "were killed, and five or six others, of my "people, wounded. These were communi- "cated to me by my people, after they "overtook me. I was not present when "the scuffle took place, neither was it with "my sanction. I knew nothing of all this "until all was over, having been informed

"by my people, who joined me. As I "depended on you, I did hope that, you "would, after all, send for me through my "Vakeel, but I understood he was also "secured, put in irons, and interdicted "from having any food, as well as from "performing his daily ceremonies, and "much troubled; that my Palankeens, "horses, and other articles, were exposed "for sale, by public auction, without the "gate of the Palace. I, my brother, and "Vakeel, were only permitted to go upstairs. "I then visited you, when you enquired of "me whether I had brought the balance of "my kists, I replied that, I did bring with "me the full amount of the arrears. I was "then questioned why I committed dis-"turbances in the Circar Villages, I replied, "that, I committed no such disturbances, "and that, if declarations from the in-"habitants, who have been injured by me, "be produced, I would become responsible. "You then told me that you have got a "Palace here for me, where I could remain.

"I replied that I had no objection to remain "wherever you ordered, but that, as I was "of late unwell and as the Small-Pox was "raging in the Fort, of which I was in "dread, that I should remain without the "Fort, and return to my Pollam, when-"ever I might be permitted to do so, until "which, I would wait. You were then "pleased to enquire whether, my father "had the Small-Pox, I answered that, he "was also much afraid of it, and that, he "at last died of it, therefore that, I was "also fearful, and that, I would remain "without the Fort, agreeably to order. "You insisted on my remaining in the Fort. "I then stood for hours, in hopes that, you "would condescend to permit me to remain "without the Fort. I then acquainted you "that, I wanted to retire for answering the "calls of nature. You granted me leave "to do so. Having accordingly come down, "I heard the Hircurrahs and sepoys, "auctioning the silver and brass furni-"tures, and other articles, also the money

"I brought on account of discharging my
"arrears of kists, and every other thing had
"been plundered, consequently I was much
"afraid, and proceeded on my return to my
"country. I have since learnt that my
"Vakil had been sent off a Prisoner to
"Trichinopoly. When you came to Tuta-
"coryen I repaired thither, waited on you,
"and when you were pleased to come into
"my Fort, you gave me advices, laid your
"hand on my head, declared me to be your
"child, and promised to afford me every
"support, and protection. Ever since, I
"placed great confidence in you, and paid
"great attention to the Company's orders
"without failing in the smallest degree, but
"in consequence of my bad times, you have
"had no mercy on me, and therefore such
"misfortune has befallen me. However,
"as I am your child, it is a duty incumbent
"on you, to support, and protect me, since
"I and my Polliam depend on you, and
"hope also that you will have my Vakil
"liberated, and favor me with your advice,

"and confidential orders. What can I "say more."

Mr. Jackson, the Collector, having submitted the whole case for orders, the Government and the Board of Revenue, after going through the Papers, decided that the Collector was in error in directing his Javabnavis to produce copies from his own file, and read them out in open Court, and in not insisting upon the production of the original letter of the 23rd May; that the Poligar was exonerated from all blame, but that, having owned to Lieutenant Clarke's having been killed by one of his men, he was bound to make an adequate allowance to the deceased Officer's widow and children.

Major-General Floyd was sent down to enquire generally into the Poligar disturbances and with special reference to the difference between Mr. Jackson and the Panjalomcourchy Poligar. The favorable decision of Government was communicated to the Poligar through Mr. Lushington.

But all that is stated in extenuation and by way of excuse, e. g., that he was suspicious from being asked to come inside the Fort, instead of being met without, as usual; that he had told the Collector that he had come with the kist money; and that his property had, notwithstanding, been attached and sold, and statements to the like effect are altogether false and contrary to fact. The statement that the Collector's men had looted the kist money he had brought, is undeserving of a moment's consideration. Again, had the Collector had any ulterior motive in asking him to come upstairs, he would never have permitted him, as he did, to go down and that, unattended; and lastly, had there been any preconcerted design, troops would have been in readiness, and the Poligar have been, at once, shot down and never have been able to reach Panjalomcourchy, as he did. It is not apparent how the Collector was, under the circumstances, to blame in having ordered the letter of the 23rd to

be read out; for, if the letter in question had been already seen by the Poligar, there was surely no reason for his being particularly annoyed at having it read once again; whereas if he had not seen it, it was clearly indispensible that he should now see it.

Further, since it was the threat of depriving him of his zemin it contained, which alone rendered that letter potent enough to procure his presence, what reasons had he to feel aggrieved or complain? How came he too who took such exception to it, ever to make up his mind to go as far as Ramnad, considering that the Collector's letter of the 31st August 1798 was open to the like objection as it contained precisely similar wording. As a distinct ruling of Government authorises the Collector of a District to avail himself of the Military when necessary, to put down rebellion, and under certain grave contingencies, no blame attaches to him for the procedure adopted.

Some sufficient cause, however, which is

not now very apparent, must have existed to have induced men, who had virtually submitted and appeared in Court, to thus take the alarm and suddenly and precipitately beat a retreat. Calmly considering all the circumstances it may, with safety, be concluded that, their minds being unsettled and disturbed, Cataboma Naick and his men looked at things with a distorted mind and in a perverse spirit, and were ready to adopt any the wildest solution of their difficulties without looking to consequences, and that all the allegations subsequently made were mere after-thoughts and evasions.

On the 16th March 1799, Mr. Lushington wrote to the Poligar of Panjalomcourchy, directing him to appear without fail at the Ramnad Cutcherry and pay in his kist for the past and current years amounting to Rs. 10,120-2-3. On receipt of the Collector's letter, the Poligar replied on the 19th March 1799 to say that, consequent on the failure of crops, the cultivators had desert-

ed, and that, after collecting his Kaval dues, he would attend and that, to explain his situation more fully, he had sent his Vakil Ponnappa Pillai; he also asked that his Palanquins, horses, &c., of which he had been deprived by Mr. Jackson, might be restored, and finally desired the issue of orders to the Chormal ryots to pay him his Kaval dues. The Poligar of Panjalomcourchy deputed a Maniagar supported by a force to proceed and collect enhanced Kaval dues for the current, and dues in advance for the coming, year. These men, proceeding on their errand, subjected the Villagers to cruel treatment to enforce payment, binding and sending some to Panjalomcourchy as hostages for payment, and plundering the kists of Sircar villages on their way to Chormal Taluk Cutchery. The circumstances being reported to the Tahsildar, the culprits were summoned and the matter enquired into; but, as this had little or no effect in checking the irregularities and oppressions, many of the villagers

deserted, relinquishing their homes and holdings. In the course of one of their lawless visits, they came to the house of an oil-monger (chetti) and demanded payment of their Kaval fees in advance. He pleaded his inability to do so; whereupon they seized him and his mother, and beat them so severely as to endanger their lives, thereby alarming the whole village. The villagers, in a body, complained to the Tahsildar, asking him whether they were subjects of the Sircar or the Poligar to be thus oppressed with impunity, and claiming his protection. The Tahsildar sent for the Maniagar who stated that he had simply acted under the orders of the Poligar. The collections being much retarded by these irregularities, the Tahsildar submitted a report on the subject to the Collector.

On the 22nd April 1799, the Tahsildar again reported and specifically brought two cases to notice:—one in which two men and some women, who had come to sell some ghee, were stopped on their return

journey, severely beaten and relieved of their money and jewels; and the other in which one Shangu Maniagar of Perumal Patti was way-laid, severely beaten and robbed of the collections which he was taking to pay into the Taluk Treasury. Certain of the Poligar's men, coming to the Chuttram at Kadugusanthai, demanded chillies, salt, &c., of the Brahmin in charge and, on his refusal to meet the demand, on the plea that things had been locked up, he was roughly handled. Not obeying the summons served on them, the men in this case were arrested by warrant, and were in confinement in the Ramnad jail.

Siva Subbramania Pillai, wanting money to meet the expenses of his son's marriage then pending, Cataboma Nayakar was persuaded by the Pillai andOomayan to undertake to supply it. The Government granaries at Tinnevelly and Tuticorin were suggested as being the most likely places to furnish it. Cataboma Nayakar accordingly looted both granaries, obtaining 1500 cot-

tahs of paddy from the former. Shangu Teven lost his life in defending the Tinnevelly granary. On the 14th May 1799, Mr. Lushington wrote to the Poligar, blaming him for not having appeared for a space of two months, and for sending no reply to the letters addressed to him, and told him that, unless he came immediately to Ramnad, there would be much room to doubt the genuineness and bona-fide of the allegiance and submission he had laid claim to and paraded in his correspondence. In spite of all these orders, the Poligar, so far from appearing, was busily intriguing with the Kallers of Kamudi and its surrounding villages, and to give himself greater facilities and throw the authorities off their guard, sent word to the Collector, that he would come at 3 o'clock which he subsequently changed to the evening. He finally ended by sending his Vakil to ask to be excused till the following day, on the score of ill-health, and its being an inauspicious day. That all this was mere

trifling, is abundantly clear from events as they subsequently transpired. The Vakil, as a matter of course, strongly urged the Collector to accede to the Poligar's wishes. In the meantime the Poligar of Nagalapuram committed dacoity in the villages of Gopalapuram and Aruppucottai, killing four, wounding ten, and carrying off some forty of the inhabitants as prisoners; setting fire to houses, &c., besides committing other atrocities.[1] Acting on reports he had received, Major Bannerman wrote to the Collector, on the 1st June 1799, urging the necessity for immediate action in putting down these disturbances, and proposed that he should be allowed to go down at once to quell them, and afford protection to the unfortunate people.

Continuing to receive daily accounts of new villages plundered, and further barbarities committed, the Collector was highly incensed, and determined on vigorous

[1] Kearn's History, page 32.

and decisive action. On the 4th June 1799,[1] he wrote to the Poligar telling him that, should he, in proceeding to Sivagunga, go by way of Pallymarah Taluk, he would be guilty of disobeying express orders, and be called to account; that it was two days since he was so informed, and that he was barely ten miles distant, and that unless he presented himself within five hours of getting the present order, he was assured that very serious consequences would follow; that he must know the Company's strength; that reinforcements from Mysore had already come in and were daily arriving; and lastly that, in his own interest, he would advise him to be cautious, and that if there were but one man of sense in his councils to advise him, he would not hesitate to follow the course that had been pointed out. On receipt of this letter, the Poligar agreed to come, but stipulated for being accompanied by an armed force, citing the

[1] Kearn's History, page 33.

occasion when he had visited Messrs. Torin, Landon, Powney and Jackson as precedents, and as his authority for making the request. The Collector in reply stated that, unless his retinue was limited to 30 men, he would not be received. The Collector and the Poligar thus contending for what each conceived to be right and proper on the occasion, neither carried his point, and hence there was no meeting. Pending a reference to the Board of Revenue on the points at issue, the Collector directed the Poligar to return to Panjalomcourchy.

Secretly determined to take advantage of the first favorable moment, when the paucity of the Company's troops favored the chances of successful rebellion, Catabo-ma Nayakar still dissembling, on the 12th June 1799,[1] wrote to the Collector in a complaining tone to say, that by his having declined to receive him, he felt disgraced and aggrieved; that he had all along con-sidered himself to be a child of the

[1] Kearn's History, page 40.

Honorable Company, and felt it hard to be thus treated. Soon after this, the Panjalomcourchy Poligar, with 500 men, entered Gangaikondan within Oothumalai limits, subjected the Maniagaren and inhabitants to torture, and, seizing the cattle and all else they could lay hands on, decamped, after levying large sums from the more respectable and well-to-do citizens. The details[1] of this raid were reported to the Collector by the Oothumalai Poligar in a letter dated 13th June 1799. Mapillay Vannianar of Elairampannai having taken the Fort of Namakarichanpati, belonging to Sivaghiri Zemin, fixed his head-quarters there and plundered the surrounding villages both Sirkar and Zemin, appointing his own Maniagarens and Curnams for collecting the Revenue. He was there joined by Virapandia Nayakar, Sevathaiyah, and Virabadhra Pillai with 2,000 men from Panjalomcourchy, and

[1] Kearn's History, page 40.

came on to Elavarasanendal. The Poligars of Golavarpati, Elairampannai, Nagalapuram, Kadalgudi and Kulatoor, with a number of men, came to Ammayarpati, a Kaval village of Sivaghiri, and, combining with a reinforcement from Panjalomcourchy, thence set out and besieged the Fort at Vijiarangapuram, committing dacoities in the villages adjacent, both Sircar and Zemin. The Panjalomcourchy party having in those raids, secured between 500 and 600 head of cattle, sent them on to Panjalomcourchy via., Golavarpati. The two bodies of insurgents, then uniting, proceeded on the 6th August to invest Sivaghiri. Much alarmed, the Sivaghiri Poligar applied to the Collector[1] for four companies of sepoys, and a brigade of guns, and begged that the Poligars of Etaiyapuram, Chokompati, and Othumalai, might be directed to render him all possible aid and support in the emergency. The necessary orders were

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[1] Kearn's History, page 42.

accordingly issued. On the 14th August 1799, Major Bannerman reported to the Supreme Government that, in return, and presuming on the leniency shown him, Cataboma Nayakar, in spite of all his pretensions, continued to be the ringleader and chief promoter of all the discord and dissensions then existing, and that, unless the Poligars in league were all arrested, and removed, and detained north of the River Coleroon, and unless their several managers, more especially Siva Subramania Pillay, were adequately punished and restrained, the other, and at present still loyal Poligars, would suffer considerably, and be coerced into doing wrong. To accomplish the end in view, Major Bannerman suggested that four field-pieces, 500 Europeans, three Battalions of Sepoys, and two troops of Cavalry, be sent down; that the Poligars be warned generally not to, in any way, help or countenance the confederates; that it be proclaimed throughout the Poliems, it was in contemplation to

sequester the Lands of the rebellious Poligars; that all arms were to be surrendered; and those found in possession of any after a given date would be subject to Martial Law. That a few examples made would be deterrent, and thence tend in the end to save the lives of many; that lenient measures, such as short terms of imprisonment were not only powerless to check, but acted rather as encouragement to continue; that so soon as the eastern Polliams were assumed and settled, the people be generally disarmed; that since the collection of the Desakaval dues is the plea under which the Poligars entered, and took possession of even Sirkar villages, the right of collecting those kaval dues by the Poligars themselves be abolished, and that in lieu, the item be collected by the Company's own servants and credit given the Poligars for the same in part-payment of their Peishkush.

Under the orders of Government, Mr. Josiah Webbe, Secretary to Government,

wrote to Major Bannerman[1], stating that the officer commanding the Troops in the Carnatic had been directed to assemble a sufficient force, composed of men from the Troops under the command of Lieut.Col. Brown, for the purpose of suppressing the disturbances incited by Cataboma Nayakar and his adherents; that, as he was appointed to command the expedition, he would proceed to Palamcottah without delay, and, taking charge, make such arrangements as he might deem necessary; that he should first reduce the Fort of Panjalomcourchy, and, having made prisoners of Cataboma Nayakar and the refractory Poligars associated with him, deport them to Madras; that he was invested with full authority to put all those, who resisted the Company's authority with arms, to death according to Military Law. He was further empowered to invite the co-operation and assistance of the well-disposed and influential Poligars, promising them adequate

[1] Kearn's History, page 50.

rewards as inducement. He was to first publish his high commission, and let the people generally know the great power, with which he had been invested by Government to punish as well as reward, and should they, regardless of all persuasion, not come to terms, he was to order the attack. The Collector was directed to co-operate and assist all in his power. The Collector of the District too, issued a Proclamation on the same lines. Major Bannerman then sent several summonses, requiring the Poligar to appear at Palamcottah, to which he paid no heed, stating in excuse that he was waiting for an auspicious day! On his paying Tuticorin a visit, Capt. Davidson meeting the Poligar, told him that it was not right for him to act thus insubordinately, to which likewise he paid no attention. As a final notice, Major Bannerman sent him an ultimatum giving him four days within which he was to appear; but this had as little effect as all that had gone before.[1]

[1] Kearn's History, page 65.

On the 4th September 1799, Major Bannerman sent 100 sepoys under a native officer to arrest the Poligar's chief Manager Subramanai Pillai who was then at Attoor. The troops, surrounding the house, tried to arrest him, but he evaded them and escaped, when, hearing that Major Bannerman was about to proceed against Panjalomcourchy, he hastened thither and joined his master the Poligar. His wife and other relatives were arrested and sent under a guard to Palamcottah.

[1] On the evening of the 4th September 1799, Major Bannerman, with a strong force setting out from Palamcottah, reached Panjalomcourchy early on the morning of the 5th. He was there joined by the detachments from Kayatar and Koilpati. With great promptitude Lieut. Dallas with his men and horse immediately surrounded the Fort. The Poligar's men were on the alert guarding the gateway. At half past nine Major Bannerman sent his interpreter

[1] Kearn's History, page 62.

Ramalinga Moodelliar, attended by Orderly Havildar Ibrahim Khan, and orderly Sawmi Iyer, to the Poligar to say that he was allowed half an hour's time to consider whether he would submit and surrender. While these men were fulfilling their mission inside, Major Bannerman, profitably employing his time in making observations on the defences, discovered that the assault could be made to the best advantage, and with the least risk of losing many men, at the southern gate, and at a point situated a little to its right. The envoys were met by the Poligar, and all together went to a small Bungalow extemporised as an audience hall. At the conference, Ramalinga Moodelliar informed the Poligar that Major Bannerman had arrived with a force, and that if he placed reliance on the company and surrendered, he would have a fair hearing, and have full justice done him; but in case he refused, Major Bannerman would at once begin the assault. The Poligar stated that just as he was about

setting out, he had received intelligence of Major Bannerman's approach with an armed force. Ramalinga Moodelliar then asked, if a date had not been fixed in the summons; the Poligar stated that the day mentioned being inauspicious, he had been simply waiting for one more favorable, on which to set out. Ramalinga Moodelliar then said, that since the Poligar had not appeared and had not written fixing any date himself, Major Bannerman had naturally come down with a force. Cataboma Nayakar then stated that on occasions like the present, it was customary to formally state the conditions, and have a cowle drawn up before requiring surrender. Cataboma Nayakar's uncle, Gajapati Nayakar, then referred to a parallel instance when the Poligar had been summoned by Colonel Maxwell, and that Major Bannerman was present on that occasion, and hence must be cognisant of the procedure then adopted; and that he spoke from personal knowledge, since he had been present at the time. The Moodelliar said

that no cowle would be given, but as he well knew the Company was fair and just in its dealings, he might, without hesitation, throw himself upon its leniency and consideration, and submit. Gajapati Nayakar then suggested that, if there was to be no cowle, the exchange of a knife or other article should take its place as a guarantee of good faith, and without some such security, how could it be expected to surrender the Fort; and that since he stood charged with withholding his kists, causing riot and other serious offences, it would be impossible for him to come without such guarantee or safe conduct. The Moodelliar then said that from what he knew of Major Bannerman's intentions, these were idle fears on the Poligar's part, and that if he trusted implicitly to him, Major Bannerman would no doubt do what was just and proper, and that, on the other hand, it was altogether vain for him to hope to successfully cope with the Company's might and authority. Cataboma Naick objected to nothing that had

been said, but merely remarked ironically, that if it were indeed as stated, it was high time for him to seek a hiding place. The Moodelliar then asked him where he could find such a place, seeing that the whole country was subject to the Company! Retiring to an inner chamber for consultation, Cataboma Nayakar, at the end of an hour, sent a message by his uncle Gajapati to say that, provided cowle or other security were given him, he would come for a personal conference in four hours' time. Rejecting the terms, Major Bannerman ordered the assault to begin at once. Four companies of the 13th, and one company of the 3rd Regiment proceeded to batter in the southern gate. They advanced in three divisions, when Sevathiah, with a body of armed men, attempted to cut his way through and gain admittance into the Fort. Sevathiah, having had his horse killed under him, managed with difficulty to get inside. The two companies on the northern side were, notwithstanding all efforts, repulsed. Though the

gate on the southern side had been battered in, and a breach made, the troops could not enter, owing to the desperate resistance made. The Company's troops were at length disheartened. The European officers fought bravely, but were not adequately supported by their men. Concluding that the Fort had surrendered, Captains Collins (காலன்) and Laughten (லாட்டன்) with many other officers and men entered at the southern gate. They were set upon by Cumarasawmy Naick and others who had been lying in ambush. Two European and one Native officer were severely wounded, and Lieutenants Mortagil (மார்டகுள்), Dormieux and Blake and Gunner Finny killed. Lieut. Collins was killed by one Vellayan who was concealed near a garden wall. He was himself immediately after shot down. The British Troops retired exhausted with their day's hard fighting. There was consequently no night attack that day. A requisition for additional men and guns was made on

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Palamcottah.[1] On the 6th Sept. the Poligar's Vakil came to Major Bannerman with a proposal, that the Poligar be permitted with some retainers, and in charge of Capt. Davidson, to proceed to Madras as free men and not as prisoners. Major Bannerman told the Vakil that, if the Poligar surrendered unconditionally, he would let him know the Company's pleasure in regard to himself, and then grant him permission to proceed to Madras accompanied by Capt. Davidson. The Poligar was distrustful and, on seeing the strong reinforcement that had arrived from Palamcottah that evening, lost all heart, and, sending his wife and children off to Tuticorin for safety, evacuated the Fort.

Major Bannerman immediately addressed letters to the several Poligars, requiring them to arrest and detain Cataboma Nayakar, and leaving his wounded sufficiently guarded at Panjalomcourchy, he with the rest of the army followed Cattaboma.

[1] Kearn's History, page 64.

Dividing his men into two parties, he placed the horse on his left under Capt. Dallas, and 400 infantry on his right in command of Capt. O'Reilly. They had not proceeded far, when a reply[1] from the Etaiyapuram Poligar was put into Major Bannerman's hands, in which he agreed to do all in his power to help in the capture of Cataboma Nayakar, and requested that some of the Company's troops might be sent to join his own men. Major Bannerman, on receipt of the letter, sent Capt. Dallas with a guide to Etaiyapuram and directed Captain O'Reilly to proceed forthwith and take command of the Cavalry. The zemindar sent out mounted scouts in several directions, and he, with some horse and foot, set out in hot pursuit of the fugitive Poligar, who, reaching Golavarpati, had strongly entrenched himself in the Fort there. The Etaiyapuran zemindar and his men, having distanced the Company's troops under Capt. Dallas, reached the Fort and attacked and

[1]Kearn's History, page 66.

defeated Cataboma Nayakar's men. A desperate struggle ensued, in which both sides fought with obstinacy for some time. Victory declared itself on the Etaiyapuram side, and Cataboma Nayakar, accompanied by six horsemen, escaped and fled. Having made prisoners of Sivasubramania Pillai, his brother Virabadra Pillai, and 34 other leading men, the żemindar sent them bound to Major Bannerman who was at Nagalapuram, while he continued the pursuit of Cataboma Nayakar. As soon as he saw Sivasubramania Pillai, Major Bannerman was highly pleased, and remarked that it was a more important capture than even that of Cataboma himself, and, that with this man secured, there would be an end to all disturbances and peace and quiet insured. The Etaiyapuram men, who were in charge of these prisoners, were very liberally rewarded. Sivasubramania Pillai was publicly hanged on a neem tree in a conspicuous place at Nagalapuram, and his head cut off and fixed on a pike at Panjalamcourchy, a

terror to the disaffected and rebellious.[1] Veerabadra Pillai and the other men were, for the present, to be kept close prisoners at Otapidaram.

Major Bannerman, on the 11th September 1799,[2] submitted a report to Government, embodying the chief events that had occurred, and stating what measures he had adopted for restoring peace and confidence in the disturbed Districts. On the 14th September 1799,[3] he again reported that Sundrapandia Naicker, the Nagalapuram Zemindar's brother, who had been guilty of several acts of murder and rapine at Gopalapuram in the Pallymarah Taluk, had been hanged at Gopalapuram, the scene of his atrocious acts. On the recommendation of Major Bannerman, Mr. Lushington sequestered the estates of the Poligars of Panjalomcourchy, Nagalapuram, Golavarpati, Elairampannai, Kadalgudi and Kulatur.

[1] Kearn's History, page 67.
[2] Do do pages 66 to 68.
[3] Do do page 71.

On the 13th Sept. 1799[1], Major Bannerman issued a Proclamation notifying the sequestration of the Polliams, and directing the Forts to be razed to the ground; and requiring all arms to be delivered up at fixed stations on pain of death in default. The Collector, Mr. Lushington, coming to Nagalapuram, was much pleased to hear from Major Bannerman of all the valuable and efficient aid rendered by the Poligar of Etaiyapuram, during the recent disturbances, and wrote to the Board of Revenue as under.

" [2]Conformable with the intimation given "to you in my letter of the 13th Instant, "I left Ramnad that evening and joined "Mr. Bannerman's detachment yesterday; "to-morrow I shall receive the charge of the "Panjalomcourchy, and Nagalapuram coun- "tries, and as the most formidable obstacles "to their proper regulation have been re- "moved by the execution of Subramania

[1] Kearn's History, page 72.
[2] Do do page 119.

"Pillai, the abandoned adviser of all Cata-"boma Nayakar's enormities, and Sundara-"pandia Naick, brother to the Poligar of "Nagalapuram and the leader of the party "that perpetrated those horrid acts of "desolation, fire, and murder in the vil-"lages of Gopalapuram and Arupucottah, "detailed in my letter to you in the month "of June last, I anticipate the early return of "the alarmed inhabitants and the establish-"ment of peace in these and many of the "surrounding Polliams."

"The Poligar of Nagalapuram is a close "prisoner in the Fort and will be sent to "the Presidency, as soon as a sufficient "guard can be spared from the detach-"ment; the troops appeared before this "place on the 9th, and the Poligar, soon "after Major Bannerman's arrival, came in "and surrendered himself to the Company's "authority. I have much satisfaction in "informing you that the Poligar of Etaiya-"puram has conducted himself with regular "zeal in complying with Major Banner-

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"man's instructions: he pursued Cataboma "Nayakar with so much rapidity that it "was with the utmost difficulty he escaped "with six persons who like himself were "mounted on horses to the ancoor bands. "Thirty-four of his principal dependants, "among whom was Subramania Pillai, were "seized and are now imprisoned in this "Fort."

"It will of course be one of my first "objects in receiving charge of the Panja-"lomcourchy and Nagalapuram Countries "to ascertain where the property of the two "Poligars, of Subramania Pillai and Sund-"rapandia Naick are secreted, and I shall "report to you from time to time the pro-"gress of my endeavours for this purpose."

"The troops, that had been sent to assist "the Etaiyapuram Poligar in the pursuit "of Cataboma, returned on the defeat "and dispersion of that chief's forces, to "Nagalapuram and rejoined the troops "under Major Bannerman."

The Poligar of Etaiyapuram, having re-

ported that Cataboma Nayakar and his five companions on being closely pressed had abandoned their horses and entered the dense forests, where it was impossible to follow them, was directed to relinquish the pursuit, and return, which he did reaching Nagalapuram on the evening of the 18th, when he met Major Bannerman and Mr. Lushington. They both commended him for his energy and zeal, and presented him with two valuable shawls and a horse with trappings. Major Bannerman, then addressing the Zemindar, informed him of the purpose of demolishing the Forts of the refractory Poligars and of disarming the people generally and invited his co-operation and support in carrying out the measure, observing that if a man of his position and influence set the example, the other Poligars would readily follow his lead. To all which, the Zemindar agreed. On the 19th Sept. 1799[1], Major

[1]Kearn's History, page 76.

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Bannerman submitted the following Report to Government.

"I have the honor to inclose for the "information of Government a copy of a "letter, which I yesterday addressed to "Mr. Lushington the Collector, and of a "translation of the Proclamation, to which it "alludes, and which was yesterday published "throughout this country. I should think "that justice and the necessity of the measure "of sequestering the Polliams of Panjalom-"courchy and Nagalapuram will never be "called in question. The records of Govern-"ment are crowded with proofs of the de-"linquency of the Poligars, and there is "scarce a village or hut in the Polliams in "the neighbourhood in which scenes of mur-"der and rapine have not been frequently "committed by their orders. The inform-"ation, which I have received from Mr. "Lushington of the refractory, turbulent "and insolent conduct of the Poligars of "Golavarpati, Elairampannai, Kadalgudi "and Kulatur; and the frequent instances,

"which I myself have witnessed, of the "readiness of three of the number to act "in opposition to the Company's authority "on every occasion where they were "not restrained, by the presence of the "Military force, but above all their "rebellious combination against the Siva-"ghiri Poligar, determined me to include "their Polliams in the number of those to "be sequestered, not only as a measure of "justice but with a view of making an im-"pression on the minds of the other Poligars, "which, I have much reason to believe, will "operate very materially in obtaining from "them a less reluctant compliance with "such farther measures as I shall have "occasion to adopt, for disarming the whole "of the southern Poligars, and for reducing "these chieftains to the authority of the "Civil Government.

"I shall have the honor to report to "Government at an early period which "individuals I shall find expedient to send "prisoners to the Presidency in consequence

" of the sequestration of their Polliams. I
" received a visit from the Etaiyapuram
" Poligar yesterday forenoon, on his return
" from the pursuit of Cataboma Nayakar.
" In my interview with the Poligar on this
" occasion in which Mr. Lushington was so
" obliging as to assist, I took much pains to
" assure him how well satisfied I was with
" his behaviour on the late occasion which
" I should not fail to represent to Govern-
" ment as highly meritorious, and used every
" argument to encourage him to persevere
" in a line of conduct from which he would
" be one to derive the happiest consequences
" both to himself and his Polliam. I
" briefly related to the Poligar the causes
" to which the two late severe examples were
" to be ascribed and the reluctance with
" which I should act, if circumstances
" obliged me to make any more such exam-
" ples, but I, at the same time, avowed my
" firm determination to use the authority
" with which I was vested, to the full extent,
" in curbing the licentious and refractory

"spirit of such of the Poligars who had for "a long time past only waited for the "absence of the Company's troops, as the "signal to act in contempt of their authority "and to carry desolation and death not only "into the Polliams of their neighbours but "even into the Company's territories. I "further informed him, that I should have "much pleasure in proposing his conduct to "the other Poligars as highly deserving of "their imitation and that I had much reason "to hope his continuing to pay proper atten- "tion to the Collector as the representative "of the Company would have the happiest "effect in influencing the conduct of the "other Poligars. We then parted, the Poligar "having been previously presented with "two shawls and a horse not only as a token "of my fullest approbation of his past con- "duct, but with a view also of securing his "future attachment; for this man is so much "respected in this part of the country, that, "if I can but secure his concurrence in the "measures which it is intended to adopt

"for destroying the Forts and disarming "all the Poligars, I do not apprehend "much difficulty in making the other head-"men follow his example.

"My letter to Mr. Lushington explains "the reasons of my intention to move with "the detachment in a westerly direction."

On receipt of this letter, the Government expressed its great satisfaction and approval of the tact and courtesy which had characterised Major Bannerman's dealings with the Poligar of Etaiyapuram which had no doubt tended greatly to facilitate the settlement of the country, and expressed its conviction of the salutary effect it would have on the future conduct of all the other Poligars. The Government in its Proceedings having passed some adverse strictures on Major Bannerman's too great precipitancy in ordering the assault on Panjalomcourchy, without waiting for sufficient European Troops to surround the Fort thus allowing Cataboma Nayakar to effect his escape. That officer in his

letter to Government, dated 22nd Sept.[1] vindicated his conduct and demonstrated how it had been impossible for him to have taken any other course.

The blind young Poligar of Golavarpatti and the decrepit old Poligar of Kulatur were sent to Mr. Lushington at Ramnad to be imprisoned. Satoorappa Pillai, Manager of Nagalapuram, Sundaralinga Nayak, Manager of Golavarpati, Chinna Veetoo Nayakar, son of the Kulatur Poligar, Manager Arumugom Pillay, P. Dharmaperumal Pillai, Manager of Elairampannai, and Mapillai Vannianar of Sivaghiri, were sent in charge of Lieut. Turner to Madras to be thence deported.

Under orders from Major Bannerman, Capt. Davidson, commanding at Tuticorin sent Cumarasawmy Naick, Cataboma Nayak's brother, and 16 other prisoners to Ramnad to be imprisoned there.

On the 28th Sept., [2]Major Bannerman

[1] Kearn's History, page 78.
[2] Do. do. page 83.

wrote to Mr. Lushington to say that on leaving Nagalapuram, he was informed that Chickammal, wife of Cataboma Nayak's uncle, had given a small box containing jewels and other valuables for safe custody to some man at Kosikundu; that he had sent for the box and had had an inventory of its contents made and duly attested by Brigade-Major Knowles, and Mr. George Hughes; and that since these jewels constituted "*Prize money*" he requested that, on being sold, their value be kept separate and distinct. Intimation was shortly after received from Raja Ragunatha Thondaman Bahadur, of the capture of Cataboma Nayakar.[1] Mr. Lushington ordered him to be confined at Madura for the present. On being informed of the capture of the great rebel chief, Major Bannerman, determining on military execution, directed him to be brought to Kayatar, and invited all the Poligars to be present there.

Cataboma Nayakar, and six of his com-

[1] Kearn's History, page 86.

panions in adversity and sharers in his iniquity, were brought down to Kayatar on the 5th October. All the Poligars having arrived by the 16th Octr., Cataboma Nayakar was brought before Major Bannerman, Major R. Turin, Mr. George Hughes (Malabar Translator) and the assembled Poligars.

On being asked, if he had received the letter of the 1st Sept. 1799[1] requiring his attendance at Palamcottah, he answered in the affirmative. He was then shown his reply which he acknowledged as having been written and sent by him. He confessed to not having obeyed the several summonses sent him by Mr. Lushington, and owned to not having paid his kists. He was then asked if he had not joined the Sivaghiri Zemindar's son and Mappillai Vannian, and in August and September aided them with a force of from 700 to 1000 armed men in their revolt against the Zemindar; if he had not failed to obey Major Banner-

[1] Kearn's History, page 103.
[2] Do do page 102.

man's summons to attend, and if he had not about the same time been present when the troops sent to arrest him were resisted and fired upon. The Poligar neither admitted nor yet denied these several accusations. The charges were then gone into and established by the testimony of unimpeachable witnesses. Cataboma Nayakar was sentenced to death and Oomai Cumarasamy Nayakar and the other prisoners were ordered to be confined in Palamcottah jail.

To carry out the sentence, Cataboma Nayakar was taken to a gallows, erected on an eminence near the old fort at Kayatar and there hanged. On his way to the execution, he evinced no signs of fear, but cast looks of defiance, scorn, and contempt at the Etaiyapuram and Sivaghiri Poligars. He walked up to the gallows with a firm step bitterly lamenting his folly, and exclaiming against his hard fate in not having died defending his Fort instead of being to be thus brought to end life ignominiously on a scaffold.

Major Bannerman having read out the sentence, the unfortunate Cataboma Nayakar was launched into eternity.

The Sivaghiri Poligar's son, who had also been condemned to death, was, at the earnest solicitation of his father and in consideration of his uniform good conduct and allegiance, pardoned by Major Bannerman.

The Poligars, who had been detained at Kayatar, pending the dismantling of the 42 Forts and the registry of all arms, now that those orders had been carried out, were allowed to return to their several Polliams. Major Bannerman remained to see that all the orders of Government were complied with and, so soon as that duty had been performed, made over charge of his command to Major Robert Turin commanding Palamcottah, and left for England on furlough.

For the valuable services rendered by the Tondaman Raja in arresting Cataboma Nayakar, the Government, in high appre-

ciation of his conduct, granted him his whole Territory as a freehold in perpetuity and to mark its sense of the help given by the Etaiyapuram Zemindar in the defeat, pursuit and capture of the rebel chief, the Government made him a grant of the village of Sivagnanapuram. The lands belonging to Panjalomcourchy were confiscated and placed under an Amildar named Lala Sahib.

[1]A conspiracy was, in the meantime, maturing which had for its object the release of Oomai Cumarasawmi Nayakar and his companions from the Palamcottah Jail and the rebuilding of the Fort at Panjalomcourchy which, as already mentioned, had been razed to the ground.

On the 2nd February 1801, a number of the conspirators, some disguised as itinerant jugglers and others carrying bundles of grass and firewood, in which their weapons were concealed, entered the town and practising their juggling and

[1] Kearn's History, page 120.

other tricks during the day, towards evening proceeded to the Jail and, overpowering the guards, entered and threw the prison doors open. Oomayan and the rest, arming themselves with the muskets of their late guards and passing through the southern gate, made such good use of their heels as to reach Panjalomcourchy 30 miles distant by daybreak on the following morning. They provided themselves with arms on their way by disarming nearly 100 men and an entire company of sepoys under a Native officer at one stage of their hurried flight. While these events were transpiring, Major Macaulay and the whole European community, consisting of some twenty ladies and gentlemen, were innocently dining at the Major's garden house.

With the exception of some four or five hundred men garrisoning Palamcottah, the major portion of the Company's troops were at Sankaranainarkoil. Setting to work with a will, the insurgents had, within 6 days of their arrival as if with magic

wand, called the Panjalomcourchy Fort again into existence. The walls of the new structure were composed of stiff clay well beaten up with cumbu stubble and offered great resistance to the penetrating power of cannon shot. This Fort was a parallelogram 500×300 feet with walls 12 feet high. A sufficient and well-armed body of men had likewise been provided for its efficient defence.

On the following day, Major Macaulay, considering what measures were to be adopted, ordered the troops from Sankaranainarkoil to proceed forthwith to Kayatar. All the officers at Palamcottah with a small body of cavalry, consisting of 28 men belonging to the Nabob, set out and joined the troops at Kayatar on the 16th Feby.

The European troops had, on the settlement of the country, been withdrawn from Palamcottah to garrison other places; hence the whole available force then consisted of 900 sepoys armed with muskets. Coming on to Culasekaranellür, 19 miles

from Kayatar, they were then joined by a Detachment of Bengal Artillery with 4 guns 2 six and 2 four Pounders. On the morning of the 8th February, the force reached the village of Culasekaranellur. Just as the men had got under canvas and had set about preparing their food, they observed about a thousand of the enemy occupying the surrounding heights. Dividing into 3 parties, the enemy simultaneously began the attack in three sides of the camp. A party of the enemy, creeping along the bed of a Nallah, were attacked and driven back. After about an hour's struggle, the main body gave way and was soon in full flight. Forty of the Poligar's men and six of the Company's men were killed. All in camp was quiet up to 9 P.M., when the sounds of firing being heard about a mile off Culasekaranellur, the Company's Troops got under arms but, on reaching the spot, found that the Troops then had already repulsed a night attack that had been made by the enemy. The Troops

remained under arms all night and starting at 6 A.M., advanced and occupied some open ground near Panjalamcourchy. Under the impression that they would have an easy victory since the Fort had only recently been razed to the ground, what was their surprise on arriving there to find a new and strong Fort confronting them well manned by a garrison of 5,000 men all ready and eager for the fight! Seeing how well prepared the enemy was to meet them and astonished and confounded at the apparent strength of their position, the officer in charge of the Company's Troops considered that the force with him was altogether inadequate for the capture of the place. Being informed of the enemy's resolve to take the aggressive and attack him that night, he determined on beating a retreat to Palamcottah. [1] At two in the afternoon, the enemy, observing some stir in the camp, took it to indicate an immediate advance and assault and manned their

[1] Kearn's History, page 122.

walls in readiness to receive and repel any attack. Placing their baggage and women and all non-combatants in the centre, the British Troops formed square. These preliminaries to a retreat served but to confirm the enemy in his erroneous impression as to the imminence of an advance. The Company's Troops, turning to the west, took the direct road to Palamcottah. The Poligar's people were still deluded as though this was a mere ruse to induce them to sally out; they hence kept close to their Fort awaiting the attack. At length no enemy appearing, they began to recognize the truth and to be convinced that the Company's forces were in reality in full retreat. They immediately set out in hot pursuit and, coming up, attacked the retreating force. Capt. Visey and his grenadiers with two six pounders, detaching themselves from the main body, made a stand and waiting till the enemy had approached to within a short distance, fired killing 110 men at one discharge. Astonished and awed, the

remainder beat a precipitate retreat, and the troops were no more molested during the whole of their long and tedious march back to Palamcottah. Mr. Lushington, who was then at Nagalapuram, on hearing of all that had happened, wrote to the Etaiyapuram Poligar to make due enquiries and submit a full report on the position of affairs which he accordingly did. On receipt of the Etaiyapuram report, collecting a force, Mr. Lushington proceeded to Panjalamcourchy via Etaiyapuram, writing in advance to the poligar to make all necessary arrangements against his arrival.

Messrs. Lushington and Cassamajor, on reaching Etaiyapuram, conferred with the Zemindar as to what order was to be taken for the capture of Panjalamcourchy, and asked him to assist in the operations against that Fort. The Zemindar promised all the aid in his power and, since he and the Panjalamcourchy Poligar were at deadly feud, desired that he might be

supplied with fire arms and other appliances of war. On reaching Palamcottah, Mr. Lushington directed Major Macaulay to issue the necessary arms which he sent under a strong guard to Koilpati, where the Poligar's men took charge of them. Three hundred additional muskets were subsequently supplied. Lieutenants Laughton, Landen and Warren, with three companies and some guns, were sent for the protection of Etaiyapuram. Leaving a thousand men to guard that place, the Poligar with 2000 men got ready to proceed to Panjalamcourchy. From the 1st to the 27th February, troops for the capture of Panjalamcourchy were concentrating at Kayatar. On the 27th, hearing that Kadalgudi was threatened, the Panjalamcourchy Poligar sent a force of two thousand men to relieve it. This body was met and forced to retire. Of the men belonging to Kadalgudi, 3 were killed and 15 wounded, while, in the absence of any returns, nothing definite can be said about the Panjalam-

courchy losses. While the Company's forces were thus concentrating, the Panjalamcourchy men had not been idle and had looted many of the surrounding villages. All the Company's Troops had reached Kayatar by the 3rd of March. The Panjalamcourchy men had, in the meantime, captured Tuticorin, made Mr. Baggot prisoner and carried him off to Panjalamcourchy. His wife followed him there and at her earnest entreaties, the husband was set at liberty by the Poligar chief. Some adjacent (government) villages were sacked and some thousand muskets fell into their hands. Proceeding to Srivikuntam, they endeavoured to sack the temple there; but the place made a brave and unexpected stand till it was relieved by the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment under Major Sheppard. The whole of the force, amounting to 3000 men, had arrived at Kayatar by the 27th March and was under command of Major Macaulay, who was also Resident of Travancore. Leaving Kayatar, Major Macau-

lay had barely reached Otrampati six miles from Kayatar when he was attacked by a body of 600 Panjalamcourchy men who had been lying in ambush.

Lieutenant Grant, with a hundred cavalry and two guns, was ordered to charge them. The enemy retired sullenly, keeping up a running fight. The ground was black cotton soil, covered with standing crops and, unsuited and difficult for cavalry at any time, was made more so by some rain which had fallen. Lieut. Grant having killed three of the enemy, was speared and fell, but with the energy of despair succeeded in slaying his opponent. Subadar Sheik Ibrahim, who was with Grant, was killed after having himself killed 4 men. Besides those mentioned, 4 sepoys and 2 horses were killed and 11 men and 12 horses wounded. In this engagement, 96 men were killed on the Panjalamcourchy side and a great number wounded. Finding it hopeless to stand their ground any longer, the enemy

taking advantage of some broken ground and jungle, dispersed and escaped into it.

On the 30th March, the Etaiyapuram Poligar with 2000 men,[1] joined Macaulay at Pasuvanthanai. Starting thence the combined forces reached Athalodei and camped one mile from Panjalamcourchy. They reconnoitered and, getting some guns into position on a tank bund, 900 yards distant, opened fire on the north-western Bastion. Finding little or no impression made at that long range, the guns were advanced to within 400 yards. After a heavy cannonade about three in the afternoon, a breach, deemed practicable, was observed and the storm was ordered. Two howitzers and two six pounders had also been pouring in their fire from a bank to the northward. These, from various causes, however, did little or no damage. The storming party consisted of 2 Companies of the 74th Regiment, all the Native Grenadiers and a battalion Company of the 3rd

1 Kearn's History, p. 125.

Regiment, the whole line being close in, and disposed to the right and left to keep down the enemy's fire. The Company's Troops began the assault on the western wall. The Etaiyapuram forces, amounting to 2000 men and a contingent of 300 men under Capt. Charles Trotter, made an attack simultaneously on the northern side. The walls were obstinately defended by 5,000 men. Every vacancy by death in the front ranks of the enemy was immediately filled by a living man from behind. Regardless of the heavy fire opened on them from 5 or 6 Bastions and the Curtains, the Company's troops, overcoming all obstacles, crossed the thorn hedge and endeavoured to climb the walls; but they had no sooner reached the summit, when they dropped down pierced with wounds from both pikes and musketry. A retreat was ordered and a sad scene of horror ensued. The wounded, who were of necessity left behind, were ruthlessly stabbed and hacked to pieces. The casualties were 4 officers and 49 men killed, and

13 officers and 254 men wounded. A flag of truce was sent asking for permission to remove and bury the dead which was granted. On the 2nd April, the Poligars demanded an amnesty declaring their readiness to obey the British Government and pay their kists but, at the same time, protesting against the imprisonment of their Chiefs. They were told in reply that rebels in arms could not be treated with; and that they must deliver up their chiefs and lay down their arms unconditionally before any proposal could be entertained.

Declining the terms, the Poligar prepared to renew the struggle. At 8 P.M. that night when Major Macaulay and the other officers were sitting at dinner, the night being dark, the Poligar's forces suddenly attacked the camp firing briskly and severely wounding Lieut. Lyne of the Cavalry and five men. As the moon rose they were first noticed retiring. Between this and the 22nd, nothing of note occurred.

There were daily skirmishes in which both sides lost a few men. The Pioneers were occupied in strengthening the outposts and in raising a breast-work as a defence against cannon shot which the enemy occasionally sent into camp from some old guns they had drawn out. The 22nd was ushered in by a heavy thunderstorm, accompanied with showers of rain which damped everything and prevented the fire arms from readily going off. Taking advantage of the circumstance, about noon, a party of the enemy suddenly assailed the camp and gained some advantage, but just then the weather clearing, the guns on the Tank bund, distant about 500 or 600 yards, began to play on the enemy, but the rain again setting in, they had soon to cease firing. Assaulted thus by the elements and the enemy, the Company's Troops were placed at a disadvantage and suffered considerably. Making a sudden dash, the enemy secured some fire-arms and, wounding 8 men, captured a field piece which they pro-

ceeded to laboriously drag away across the wet cotton soil. Reinforcements arriving, Lieuts. Day and Clason with some men dashed forward and, recovering the gun, succeeded in dragging it back in triumph. After about an hour's fighting in which much powder was burnt but little damage done, both sides, as if by common consent, suspended hostilities and retired to their respective stations. About 9 P.M., when all had got under tents they were roused by the sound of heavy firing in front of their position. and, looking out in the gloom, could discern the flashes of firearms. Not knowing what it portended, and each man expecting a pike thrust at any moment, the troops stood to their arms and remained for some time in great suspense. Presently a body of shouting and howling men were seen approaching and were about to be fired upon, when it was happily discovered, that they were a party of the Company's Pioneers, lascars and coolies who had been engaged in throwing up a Battery some

400 yards from the Fort, and some sepoys who had shamefully abandoned their posts and fled in terror and dismay on being attacked by a party of the enemy. These latter were at once placed under arrest. The next day, Major Macaulay, with the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment and four guns, made a reconnoisance and proceeded round the Fort taking care to keep out of the reach of musketry from the walls. The enemy opened fire, but the party being out of range no harm was done. On their return the enemy tried to intercept them; but were deterred by a few discharges from the galloper guns. From this time up to the 19th May was passed in occasional skirmishes with the enemy in which a few men were killed on either side. A new Battery, 20 paces by 15 paces and 16 feet high and mounting two guns, was erected within 600 yards of the western gate. A guard of 60 men was placed there in charge of the battery. On the 21st May, Lieut.-Col. Agnew, Capt. Munro, Major of Bri-

gade and Capt. Marshall, Private Secretary, arrived with reinforcements and immediately determined on an attack.

In reconnoitering that evening, the party was fired upon and 2 sepoys with Col. Agnew were wounded. On the 22nd, the 77th Regiment under Col. Spry, a company of artillery under Capt. Sinclair, three companies of the 1st Battalion of the 7th Regiment under Capt. Godfrey, and 4 companies of the 1st Battalion of the 13th Regiment under Capt. Townsend, with 4 eighteen pounders, and two 5½ and two 4½ inch Howitzers, joined the camp. In addition to these troops, the 1st Regiment of Light Cavalry under Capt. Doveton and 150 Malay under Capt. Whitby also reached that evening. On the 22nd May, Col. Agnew with Sir John Sinclair and Lieut. Bradley of the Engineers, having again reconnoitered, fixed on the best site for a breaching Battery on the south bank and got 4 eighteen pounders and 2 six pounders and 2 Howitzers into position.

Three men were killed in accomplishing this.

At sunrise on the morning of the 23rd May, 2 Batteries opened fire on the south western Bastion of the Fort and soon demolished the southern face and salient angle of the bastion. Colonel Agnew was for an immediate advance and the storming party was ready, but by Major Macaulay's advice, the assault was put off to noon the following day. On being consulted, the Etaiyapuram Poligar gave it as his opinion, that until the whole side had been demolished, and the exact position of the enemy ascertained, it would be rash to assault and enter the Fort. Col. Agnew was eventually brought round to the same opinion. The bombardment was hence resumed, when the garrison retired to underground excavations as a protection against the rain of shot and shell. On the 24th May, the continuous cannonade, from 6 A.M. to 1 P.M, had well nigh destroyed the major portion of the walls and demolished the Palaces

and other buildings inside. Although the bastions were crowded, to their surprise, not a man was observed moving about inside the Fort. To prevent the enemy's escape on that side, Capt. Doveton, with some cavalry and Lieut. Grant and 4 gallopers, were stationed on the eastern face. The enemy hence had no chance of escaping unobserved. Cols. Agnew and Macaulay were lost in astonishment not knowing how to account for the sudden and mysterious disappearance of the enemy, when the Etaiyapuram Poligar informed them of his having heard about their burrowed hiding places. Mr. Agnew at once directed hand grenades to be thrown into the Fort and the bastions which still gave some trouble to be carried and directed the cavalry to look after any runaways. The storming party consisted of the Grenadiers' Light Company and a battalion company of the 77th, the Grenadiers of the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 13th and 14th Regiments, the Malays, and a detachment

of the 9th. Notwithstanding this formidable array and the strong force in reserve to support it, the Poligars did not in the least shrink, but with renewed vigor bravely stood their ground and so effectually defended the breach, that it was quite half an hour before the first man of the assailants could stand on the summit. Not only did bodies of the enemy keep firing on both flanks, but some got round and attacked the troops within the hedge. After a hand to hand struggle, which lasted 15 minutes, the whole of the enemy at the breach having been killed by hand grenades and heavy shot thrown over among them. At length, the assailants carrying the breach, entered the Fort pursuing the flying enemy. Oomai Cumarasawmy Nayakar and some 2600 men finding their underground quarters untenable from the suffocating smoke, left their burrows and escaped in two bodies through the eastern gate. They were then surrounded and attacked by the cavalry, and the

Etaiyapuram Poligar's men who killed 600 of them. The remaining 2000 escaped.

Col. Agnew directed the Etaiyapuram Poligar to pursue and arrest Oomai Cumarasawmy Nayakar and in case of resistance, to cut him down. The Etaiyapuram Poligar, with Cattalomkulam Alagumuthu Servei, and a body of horsemen, and some foot, started in pursuit. Pushing on in advance, the horsemen before long came up with Oomayan's party, when some skirmishing took place in which many of Oomayan's men were killed and Oomayan himself, severely wounded by a pike thrust, fell from his horse. It being night and dark Oomayan was not recognised.

Presently a woman came on the scene searching for her missing son, among the dead and dying on the battle field. Her search was successful: but alas! the son expired almost immediately. He lived, however, long enough to point out Oomayan, who was lying near him, to his mother and commend him to her care. Throwing a

sheet over him, the woman carried the insensible chief to her hut and, the more effectually to screen him, covered him with a white cloth and told all enquirers that he was some poor man laboring under an attack of small-pox, which scared the too curious. Recovering from his wounds, Oomayan lived in seclusion for some time at Sinna Vadagai, a small hamlet, and being there joined by Parea Marudu and Sinna Marudu Serveis, set about devising new plots for resisting the Company's authority. Hearing that Oomayan, and the Poligar of Kulatur with a large body of men were committing depradations in and about Kamadi, Colonel Agnew directed Major Sheppard and the Poligar of Etaiyapuram to proceed thither with their men. The enemy were pursued up to Seruvayal where they were joined by Marudappa Servei and his men. In an engagement which shortly after ensued close to Pasalai, a small village, Marudappa succeeded in capturing and carrying off a

gun from the Company's Troops, which was, however, recaptured and brought back by Alagumuthu Servei of Cattalomkulam, the Etaiyapuram Poligar's headman. Colonel Agnew was highly pleased at this, and presented the Etaiyapuram Poligar with an English Flag. Their followers having been thoroughly routed and dispersed, Sinna Marudu and Parea Marudu were taken and hanged. Colonel Agnew having likewise captured Oomai Coomarasawmy Nayakar and Sevathiah, they were both brought back and hanged at Panjalamcourchy. The large number of tombstones and mounts near Panjalamcourchy testify to the severity of the fighting that took place there. The Etaiyapuram losses too in this warfare were very heavy amounting to 300 men and the following names occur in the death roll :—

Muthu Pillai, Cuppiah Pillai, Sokar Pethanan, Muthu Cumaru, Mapillai Cumarasawmi Nayakar, Sinnasawmy Nayakar, Cumarasawmy Nayakar, Ramanuthu

Pethanan, Thavasi, Ramanathen and Jagavirettu.

The descendants of these men still enjoy Maniams then granted them as blood bounty in the villages of Mavaliodai, Puthalapuram, Chinnoor, and Mathandanpati. The Government, being much pleased with the Etaiyapuram Poligar's conduct throughout the disturbances, was desirous of extending the limits of his Zemindari by giving him large tracts of confiscated land, but owing to the disturbed state of the country, the Zemindar was at first unwilling to add to his responsibilities, but was finally encouraged and was persuaded to accede to the proposal by Mr. Lushington, the Collector. Six Vanithams, (Divisions) belonging to Panjalomcourchy, were thus acquired. Many valuable presents and marks of distinction were conferred on him on the same occasion. The site of Panjalomcourchy was ordered to be ploughed up and sown with the castor oil plant, so that every trace of its existence may be

blotted out and its very name pass from the memory of man.

In the 12th year of his reign, Muttu Jagavirarama Kumara Ettappa Nayakar Ayan had the ceremony of Athana Yagom performed by Subramania Dikshadar and, in the following April, he was blessed by the birth of a son and heir. In the next year 1797, the Zemindar had the ceremony of Soma Yagom performed by the same Dikshadar at an expenditure of Rs. 10,000. Three years after, he had Soma Yagom performed by Gomathi Dikshadar, a brother of Subramania Dikshadar, at an expenditure of Rs. 5,000. The Zemindar likewise presented the temple of Calugumalai with its silver vehicles (Peacock, Horse, Goat, &c.) at a cost of Rs. 7,000. He is hence to be commended for his piety, generosity and other good qualities. He ruled 33 years.

ABSTRACT.

31 reigns=1011 years, i.e. up to 1814 A. D.

CHAPTER IV.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE PANJALOMCOURCHY WAR.

Jagavira Rama Vencateswara Ettappa Nayakar Ayan succeeded. During his time a temple in honor of Subramania was erected at Cumarettiapuram and two villages, yielding Rs. 900 annually, were allotted for its up-keep. This Zemindar erected a choultry at Etaiyapuram with a large well of drinking water for the use of Brahmins. In the year 1827, the Right Honorable S. Lushington, Governor of Madras, on coming to Rayaghiri belonging to Sivaghiri, paid Etaiyapuram a visit. At Calugumalai a very fine stone-mantapam was erected at a cost of Rs. 30,000 in honor of Calugachalamurti. The large stone-tank and central mantapam were also now constructed. This Poligar's wife built a chuttram and endowed it with two villages Culathulvaipati and Chathrapati yielding an annual income

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of Rs. 650. An agraharam, consisting of 12 houses, was also established by her and hence named Ammal madum. Rs. 20,000 were expended in providing the local Swami Calugachalamurti with a palanquin and jewels. The ceremony of Lukshadwipam was likewise celebrated with great pomp and profuse expenditure. The large tank to the north of Etaiyapuram was faced with stone and a supply channel excavated connecting this tank with another and larger one at Pedhapuram, two miles to the west. In 1833 the ceremony of Ashtabandanum[1] (the ceremonial fixing of an idol) was performed in honor of Salivateswarer and Srikanthimathi of Tinnevelly at a cost of Rs. 50,000. At Vedanattom on the road to Rameiswarem, a choultry costing Rs. 15,000 was erected and at which all brahmins and gosavis are supplied with food. A temple, with a stone-tank attached in honor of Siva, was erected here. At Puthiamputhur a Siva Temple was erected and

[1] Ashta=eight, bandanum=fixing.

a stone-tank constructed. The temple at Golavarpati was renovated at a cost of Rs. 10,000. At Etaiyapuram itself the fine buildings known as Sundaravilasom, Kaliana Mahl, Subramania Vilasom, &c., were built. The two flags of honor, promised by the Company to the Zemindar's father, were now received. He reigned 23 years.

The late Zemindar left 5 sons, Jagavira Rama Cumara Ettappa Nayakar Ayan, Venkatteswarettu Nayakar, Muttusawmy Pandian, Cumaramuthu Pandian, and Ramasawmy Pandian. The eldest of these succeeded. He pulled down and rebuilt the palace and replaced the mud fort by one built of brick in chunam. On the north-eastern side of the palace, he erected the edifice known as Shunmugavilasom crowning its summit with a golden sphere. He also constructed roads especially the fine and broad one leading to Naduvirpati and planted the existing avenues. The tanks at Puthupati and Naduvirpati were faced with stone and deepened. The annual fes-

tivals at the Siva and Vishnu Temples were instituted and certain villages, yielding an annual income of Rs. 2,500, set apart for their expenses. He made Subba Dikshadar his domestic priest and was instructed in the panchaksharom (a siva formula comprised in the five letters[1]) and performed Siva-pujah. The priest was rewarded with a grant of lands at Kurumalai and Cumaraghiri and carried in procession in a golden palanquin.

The Temple of Subramania Swami at Calugumalai was endowed in perpetuity with 15 villages yielding Rs. 7,600 annually in addition to the original ayacut maniam. The great mantapam at Calugumalai was at this time erected. The Mulasthanom of Arumuga Nainar was built and the rails of the vestibules gilded and jewels, set with precious stones to the value of Rs. 70,000, presented to that Swami.

This Zemindar composed many Sanskrit

[1] Na, ma, si, va, ya which together comprise a name of the deity Siva.

hymns in praise of Siva, Vishnu and Subramania which are still admired and sung. The bridge crossing the Chittranadi near Gangaikondan was also built by this Zemindar at a cost of Rs. 6,000. Another bridge spanning the Uppar near Kayatar was erected at a cost of Rs. 10,000. He received the thanks of Government for his public spirit and for his large-hearted benevolence.

For the up-keep and conservancy of the bridge at Gangaikondan, the Government made a grant of 25 cawnies of land, planted with palmyrah to the north of the bridge. A chuttram, with an endowment of 2 villages yielding Rs. 1,500 annually, was also built at Vepalapati. This Zemindar reigned 13 years.

Jagavira Rama Kumara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan having no son, his brother Jagavira Rama Venkateswera Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan succeeded. He built the mantapam facing the Siva-temple at Etaiyapuram at a cost of Rs. 5,000. He also

erected the Hall of Installation surmounted with 5 golden stubies (spheres) within the palace limits at an expenditure of Rs. 30,000. He likewise erected a Hall of Sacrifice and had the ceremony of Soma Yagom performed by Swamy Dikshadar at a cost of Rs. 7,000. He reigned 6 years.

He leaving no son, his brother Muttusawmy Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan succeeded. This Zemindar had the honor of interviewing the Governor of Madras, Lord Napier, at Tinnevelly and Satur, when his Lordship visited the Tinnevelly District. The Chambu Kaviyam, a portion of the Skanda Puranom, was now written by Sawmy Dikshadar and publicly recited in the temple at Calugumalai when the author was publicly honored and rewarded. A silver howdah and a car, costing 8 and 10 thousand Rupees respectively, were constructed for the use of the Calagumalai temple. He left two sons and was succeeded by the first.

The life of the present Poligar of Etaiya-

puram, Jagavira Rama Kumara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, has been more eventful and fuller of pleasing incidents than the lives of most of his immediate predecessors. He succeeded to his Estate upwards of twenty years ago. At the very outset, he had the honor of taking a prominent position in giving welcome to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales on the memorable 10th December 1875, the day on which H. R. H. landed at Tuticorin; and on which date the South Indian Railway extension to Tuticorin was opened and used by the Prince for the first time. The Poligar travelled in the same train with the Prince as far as Koilpati, where H. R. H. again received him kindly, and gave him an opportunity of bidding him God-speed. A commemorative medal was granted to the Poligar. All relating to this transaction will be best illustrated by the following passage.

"At last we reached "*terra firma*." The "preparations were pretty; but there was "really very little time to look about one.

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"A temporary pavilion or Pandal had been
"erected, in which the inevitable address
"was delivered, and the Zemindars were
"presented; and when the exchange of
"courtesies had ended, the Prince walked
"to the station, where he waited till the
"exhausted and exhausting Margaret
"Northcote, had delivered her luckless
"freight. It is scarcely possible to exag-
"gerate the quiet charms of the scenery
"along the new Railway, or the great
"delight of the people at the combined
"attractions of the first Train, and of the
"Prince. The whole population thronged
"to the road-side. The tall, erect figures,
"square shoulders, broad chests, narrow
"flanks, and straight limbs of the men,
"struck one almost as much as the graceful
"carriage and elegant forms of the women.
"It would be difficult to find a finer race in
"any part of the world. Their attitudes
"of wonder and joy were singularly grace-
"ful and attractive. Some expressed their
"feelings by placing their hands, clasped as

"if in prayer, before their breasts; others "held their fingers to their lips, as if to "suppress their cries; but as the Train "passed, one and all clapped hands, as if "they were of a London audience, applaud-"ing at a Theatre. A more natural, easy, "and well-to-do looking people could not "be found in Christendom. Plains green "with sugar, rice and cotton, spread to the "foot of the wooded Hills of gniess rock, "which, generally conical, were sometimes "worn into fantastic outline of castle-like "crag, and beetling precipice. It is certain-"ly a land, if not flowing with milk and "honey, inhabited by a population of sweet "and kindly disposition, whose virtues are "admitted by the Missionaries, and whose "exceeding tractability has gained for them "the praise of Masters, not always given "to indulge in over-laudation of any native "virtues.

"The part of India, which the Mission-"aries call Tamil-land, is larger than "Bavaria, Saxony, Wertemburgh, and the

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"German Dukedoms together, and contains
"a population of about sixteen millions of
"people. The Neilgherries rising to the
"height of 8,000 feet, the Pulney with
"peaks 7,000 feet high, and their eastern
"offshoots, diversify the surface; and the
"watersheds throw off supplies for the
"great rivers, which become, however,
"for part of the year, little more than beds
"of sand. Coffee is planted on the lower
"ranges; rice in great quantities is culti-
"vated in the plains, and sugar cultivation
"is extending. Indigo and different kinds
"of grain thrive in parts of the District,
"if so it may be called, and cotton is not
"only sufficiently abundant for the wants
"of the native manufacturers, but gives
"margin for export. The manufacture of
"iron, the ore of which, is found in large
"quantities though not of very great ex-
"cellence, is still carried on. Here we have
"the Salt Tax and monopoly in full force,
"the French at Pondicherry receiving
"£40,000 a year for prohibiting the

"manufacture within their Settlements; "the revenue of the Tamil District from "this objectionable source amounting to "about two millions of Rupees per annum.

"One of the German Missionaries of the "Evangelical Lutheran Society has ex-"pressed a regret in which I certainly "share, that the sobriety of the people has "been undermined, if not by the English "Government, certainly by its legislation, "for it has introduced the system of selling "the right to make Palm-tree toddy to "the highest bidder, and drunkenness—"once the great disgrace amongst Hindus "and even a capital offence and punished "with severity under the Mahomedans—is "steadily increasing.

"At Maniachi, 18 miles from Tuticorin, "a deputation of about 6,000 native Chris-"tians including a large body of clergy and "catechists, and 1,000 boys and girls receiv-"ing education in Church of England "schools, awaited the arrival of H. R. H. "The Rev. Dr. Caldwell, the able and learn-

"ed Missionary of the Society for the Pro-
"pagation of the Gospel, and the Rev. Dr.
"Sergeant, a veteran representative of the
"Church Missionary Society, surrounded by
"a considerable staff of English clergy, stood
"on the platform side by side typifying the
"perfect unanimity with which our two
"great Church societies are laboring for
"the evangelisation of India. When H.
"R. H. alighted from his carriage, the
"Missionaries were presented to him by
"Mr. Robinson and Canon Duckworth.
"Dr. Caldwell read an address of welcome
"from the Church of Tinnevelly, expressing
"the devoted loyalty of its members and
"their deep sense of the special blessings
"they enjoyed as the Christian subjects of
"a Christian sovereign. The progress of
"the Church of England Mission in this
"region was sketched, and it was shown
"how the good seed conveyed from Tan-
"jore by Schwartz about the end of the
"last century and that which was sown
"broadcast from 1820 onwards by Rhe-

"nius both German Missionaries in the "employ of English Societies, had been "nurtured by Missionaries since 1840, until "the Native Christian community in Tin- "nevelly is the most numerous in India. "Christian congregations have been formed "in about 900 towns, villages, and ham- "lets composed exclusively of converts. "The total number of Native Christians "in the District was stated to be sixty "thousand, who are under the charge of "54 Native clergy and 590 catechists, and "teachers of various grades; and the number "of communicants is 10,378. The schools "are attended by about 13,000 boys and "girls. It is worthy of note that the Chris- "tians in Tinnevelly contributed last year "Rs. 32,483 for the support of their own "church equivalent in the sacrifice it re- "presents to eight or ten times the amount "in England. At the conclusion of the "address, a handsomely bound Bible and "Prayer Book, in the Tamil language, and "offerings of embroidery and exquisitely

"fine lace, the handiwork of girls attend-
"ing the Tinnevelly schools were present-
"ed to His Royal Highness.

"The Prince having replied to the ad-
"dress in gracious and encouraging words
"the children sang a Tamil lyric composed
"in the Prince's honor, of which the follow-
"ing is a translation, in chorus to a quaint
"Native Air:—"Through the grace of the
"Blessed Lord of Heaven, oh son of our
"victorious Queen, may'st thou ever enjoy
"all prosperity!

"It is our peculiar happiness to be sub-
"ject to a sceptre under which the leopard
"and the deer continually drink at the
"same stream.

"Crossing seas and crossing mountains,
"thou hast visited this southernmost
"region, and granted to those who live
"under the shadow of thy Royal Umbrella,
"a sight of thy benign countenance.

"May thy Realm on which sun and
"moon never set, become from generation
"to generation more and more illustrious!

"May the Lion Flag of the British "Nation wave gloriously far and wide, and "wherever it waves may the Cross Banner "of our Lord Jesus fly with it harmoniously!

"God preserve thee and regard thee "with an eye of grace, and grant thee "long life and victory, and bless thee for-"ever more!

"Obeisance to thee! obeisance to thee "oh wise king that art to be! safely may'st "thou reach again the capital of thy realm. "O thou whom all men justly praise!

"After receiving this vocal homage, H. "R. H. handed to representatives from "each of the schools, mango and other "seedlings to be planted in the school com-"pounds in memory of his visit and "doubtless in many a hamlet of Tinne-"velly the Prince's tree will keep alive, "for generations, the traditions of the hour "when the Christians of Southern India, "long wont to pray like ourselves for "Albert Edward Prince of Wales, the "Princess of Wales, and the rest of the

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"Royal Family, stood face to face with
"their future sovereign.

"At 12-20 P. M. the Train stopped at
"Koilpati, 36 miles from Tuticorin. There
"was a small camp and a handsome mess-
"tent fitted up luxuriously near the station.
"The tents belonged to the minor Zemin-
"dar of Etaiyapuram who was there with
"his kinsfolk and tenants, and the usual
"mighty multitude to greet the Prince.
"Once more we had occasion to wonder at
"the swarming masses and to admire the
"fine forms, pleasant manners and looks,
"and picturesque appearance of the people.
"There was a halt of half an hour for
"luncheon and, before the Prince resumed
"his journey, he accepted from the Zemin-
"dar some articles of trifling value as
"mementoes of his visit."[1]

The Poligar was invited to be present at the Imperial Durbar, held at Delhi on the 1st of January 1877, in celebration of the

[1] Prince of Wales' Tour in India, &c., &c., by W. H. Russel, pp. 296 to 301.

auspicious occasion on which Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, first assumed the title of "Empress of India."

The Poligar was honored by the grant of a Medal by His Excellency the Governor-General, when an interview with him was accorded. A certificate was also given him.

CERTIFICATE.

"By command of His Excellency the "Viceroy and Governor-General this certifi-"cate is presented in the name of Her Most "Gracious Majesty Victoria, Empress of "India, to Jagavira Rama Cumara Ettappa "Nayakar, Zemindar of Etaiyapuram, son "of Muttusawmy Jagavira Rama Ettappa "Nayakar, in recognition of his loyalty and "fidelity to the British Government and "charity to the poor. 1st January 1877.

He was thus enabled to travel throughout India, escorted by a Public Officer of rank, under the orders of the Madras Government. He was one of the few who were invited to attend the assemblage from Southern India.

During the late very serious and widespread famine, which raged in Southern India in 1877-78, he adopted liberal measures of relief, by opening "Feeding-houses" for the famine-stricken, and, by making advances to cultivators, enabled them to recommence husbandry after the famine ceased. The following extract from the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, No. 4472, dated 25th September 1877, will show the Zemindar's action, *in re*, the distribution of relief to the starving poor, and affording substantial help in rendering assistance to the ryots in sinking additional wells, &c.

"The interest displayed by the minor "Zemindar in the management of the "charities is highly creditable to him.

"2. The Collector will intimate to the "minor Zemindar their high appreciation "of his conduct on this occasion."

The present Poligar's uncle (father's brother), instituted a suit against him, for the partition of the Etaiyapuram Polliam,

before the Subordinate Court, Tinnevelly. In the decision given in favor of the Poligar, the Judge has fully discussed the origin and duration of the Estate. In summing up the evidence, the judge has passed the following remarks.

"11. Here the plaintiff described the "Etaiyapuram Estate as a simple Zemindari created at some time prior to 1783, "(i. e., during the Mahomedan period) and "denied at the first hearing that it was an "ancient Polliam. Consequently I cast "upon 1st defendant the burden of establishing that it was a Polliam and not a "mere Zemindari, which, as already observed, does not necessarily imply impartibility. Whether the estate existed as a "Polliam prior to the Mahomedan rule or "not, is thus the next question for consideration. The plaintiff's own exhibit A "(the History of Etaiyapuram published "by one Swami Dikshadar) shows that the "family was founded in so far back as in "A.D. 803; that 36 successions intervened

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" between the original founder and the pre-
" sent 1st defendant; and that during this
" long period of 1,000 years there was not a
" single instance of a partition having taken
" place of the estate. Throughout this book
" the Polligar is spoken of as a sovereign
" prince. It is true that this book was filed
" by plaintiff for the limited purpose of
" showing that his grandfather was not the
" son of his immediate predecessor; but this
" will not prevent the Court from reading
" the whole book as one document and avail-
" ing itself of other informations therein
" contained." * * *

" 19. For the foregoing reasons I find that
" the Estate of Etaiyapuram was a Princi-
" pality; that from the nature of its constitu-
" tion, as a sort of sovereignty, it has been
" all along impartible; and that the Villages
" acquired during the time of Plaintiff's
" grandfather and father form accretions to
" it and are therefore equally impartible."

[1]Judgment in O. S. No. 23 of 1884 on the file of the Subordinate Judge, Tinnevelly, paras 11 & 19.

He made to the Local Fund Board a free gift of the road leading to Calagumalai, 8 miles in length, constructed and maintained at his own cost. He has, with the approval of Government, lent from his own resources, a sum of Rs. 35,000 to the District Board, Tinnevelly, for the completion of the Bridge at Srivaikuntam across the Tambrapurni. He has put all the irrigation works in his Estate into thorough repair, by which his tenants are greatly benefited.

Despite these liberal contributions for the general good, he has, by the judicious exercise of economy, and not lending himself to vain expenditure, been able to effect substantial savings, which he has invested partly in Government securities, and partly in the purchase of new Estates.

The present Zemindar has added much to the attractiveness of his capital, by the erection of palatial buildings, at a cost of two lacks of rupees. These are chiefly intended as residences. Embodying as they

do, in their construction, all modern principles of sanitation and ventilation, they are quite in contrast with the time-honored erection of a bygone and insecure or lawless age, when, *security* had to be attained, at any sacrifice of comfort and elegance.